

～ハイスペック村づくり～

オレの恩返し

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一宿一飯のお礼に
村あこじ?

ハイスペック
現代知識で

High spec village

– Ore no Ongaeshi: High Spec Murazukuri –

**- Volume 1 -
Autumn of Reforms**

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- STORY -

I was a mountain climber in Japan, and when I noticed, the view that spread before me was a strange one.

A villainous Lord and a rural village at the brink of destruction filled with children. But those children have no way to oppose, so I guess I will save this village as thanks for them accepting me.

Chapter 1

When I noticed, I was here

A dazzling light suddenly wrapped around him, and after a moment it slowly dimmed down...

Where is this place... ?

A young man was suddenly standing inside of an unfamiliar forest.

Until just moments ago he was on his way to climb a local mountain. It was a famous mountain to which he was very familiar with from a young age, and one which he had climbed many times.

Did I get lost!? No, that can't be it.

Asking that question felt strange, since he was climbing was a mountain commonly visited, in the early summer, and during daytime. It might have been dangerous if this was winter time, or if he was mountain climbing at night, but there was no way he could get lost with the current situation.

Is that a beech tree?... No, this is the first time I see this type of tree.

He looked around as he tried to confirm the types of trees growing nearby as he always did.

The young man was somewhat familiar with different animals and plants inhabiting nearby forests. However, this was the first time he was seeing the types of trees that surrounded him.

They didn't even appear in the field guide of Japanese trees book.

"That's right, I have to confirm my current location... "

As he tried to calm down, he spoke his thoughts aloud. After all, it was known one needed a clear head to objectively check one's own location.

Taking out the compass from his pocket he went ahead and checked the direction. At the same time, he also observed the surrounding branches and leaves, along with the direction at which the moss was growing.

After all, acquiring the most information was the best way to get the most accuracy.

“After that, would be the position of the sun, ri... ght... ?”

And finally, as his gaze moved towards the sky, he became lost for words. A sight beyond imagination was spreading before his very eyes, overwhelming him.

“What’s is... next to the sun? Are those moons? Moreover... two of them.”

It was a truly unbelievable sight.

As he looked up, there indeed he could see a bright and shinning sun.

But two moons undoubtedly stood next to it, as if dancing. Such spectacle was clearly seen even though it was a bright day.

“In other words... this mean this is not the Earth.”

After thinking about his circumstances, that was the reasoning he came to while trying to remain calm.

So I didn’t just lost consciousness after wandering into an unknown, unexplored forest. Those were his thoughts as he analyzed the situation until a while ago.

In truth, there were still many trees, plants and animals on Earth that humanity had not discovered yet. So, for him it was a valid possibility since he saw trees that he didn’t know about.

But as his gaze turned up to the sky, that possibility disappeared.

The lack of the familiar sky he had seen since the time he was born, proved that this was not the planet where he was born and raised.

“Is this another planet? Or a parallel world?... ... ”

He believed one of those possibilities was the answer.

The air might have the same components as on Earth, that he knew, since his breathing was without any discomfort since the time he had woken up. If this were to be an actual different planet, to have the same component ratio as the Earth’s air, that would

be an astronomically small probability.

"Well then, what should I do to survive... "

While remaining wary of his surroundings, he started thinking.

I understand this is not Earth, but a different world. For the sake of convenience, let's call it "parallel world".

The problem was, what he should do next in order to not die.

I don't really feel the desire to stupidly walk to my death, and I'm not a lazy person either, so I don't want to just stay here. He didn't want to unnecessarily die, he wanted to live a long life.

And in order to accomplish that, his highest priority was to find a way to survive in this unknown world.

"The degree of danger might be [Equivalent to a jungle on Earth]... ... might as well add [The largest] to that, I wonder if this is how I should see this."

As he had hobbies about outdoor activities such as climbing, he was able to understand the scariness of nature to a certain extent.

No matter how advanced the civilization developed through scientific knowledge, people were inherently weak.

They were the weakest of creatures even unable to overcome dogs and cats, of course, that was without the support of the power brought by the use of weapons and tools.

The fur that once protected the human body degenerated, exposing humanity's soft and unprotected skin. Moreover, human strength was weak, and they even lacked claws and fangs to defend themselves.

Even a tempered martial artist had low probabilities of winning against a wild animal, if at all. In reality, it didn't work at all like it did in the manga or TV shows.

Another disadvantage people had was the fact they consumed more physical strength by being bipedal, compared to quadruped animals, and they were easier to topple over.

Their digestive capacity was low and along with the lack of thermal resistance, it made humans easily prone to diseases such as colds.

If one were to ask if people could really live naked in snowy mountains or deserts? The answer was no, it was impossible.

“People are the weakest among all creatures.”

That was his answer after calmly thinking about it.

“Now, to confirm my own situation. Breathing is fine. My body temperature also seems stable.”

He continued to voice his thoughts out loud as he kept checking his surroundings.

“OK. Next is securing food and a source of water. Then, find a safe place where I can rest, although I doubt I can find one in this forest... That would be my top priority.”

He had been taught a survival rule, the [Survival Rule of 3].

That rule stated: [You can survive for 3 Minutes without air or in icy water, you can survive for 3 Hours without shelter in a harsh environment, you can survive for 3 Days without water, you can survive for 3 Weeks without food] therefore, with his priority order decided, he proceeded to act.

For now, he felt lucky that breathing was not an issue, and the temperature here was not harsh either.

If this were world with a different air component ratio than Earth, he would have died in the first three minutes. Similarly, if this was a desert or a snowy biome, he would have lasted only 3 hours.

Having those secured, he felt lucky, wondering if it was simply devil's luck, or a god's blessing.

No... I guess there aren't gods nor devils in this world either.

Since he would at least be able to survive for three days, his next step was to secure water and food. In case of emergency, he also had some preserved food remaining in his climbing backpack too.

“Well then... which direction should I start heading towards to?”

As he decided to leave this place, he continued to check the direction on the compass. He moved forward while having some lingering attachment to this place, after all, this was the first place which he had come to.

[I wonder if there is a way to go back to Earth?] Those words, that slim sliver of hope

was still present in a corner of his mind.

In reality, this place looked quite dangerous.

If one were to camp here forever, it might take all of one's efforts just to keep from starving to death or being attacked by wild animals and die. Since he knew this, he was compelled to get out of this forest if he wanted to stay alive.

I'm not a person with a suicidal wish.

I want to live a long life.

Having those thoughts, he started to walk through this deep forest, in order to live on.

Chapter 2

Encounter with the people from the other world

It had been about an hour since he started walking through this unknown forest. He keep following the same direction with the help of the compass he always carried around, and he was sure of the time, since he had measured it with his wrist watch. This was obviously a different world, but the actions one needed to take in a forest were the same be it Earth or a different world. As he kept on moving forwards, he never forgot to be wary of his surroundings.

“For now, I should be thankful that there are no magnetic disturbances.”

Disturbances in the magnetic field would be really troublesome in his current situation.

In Earth, there are many places showing those kinds of disturbances. They were these so-called hidden places or mystery spots, and it was said that the reason why couldn’t leave once you stepped in was because of a disorder in the magnetic field.

“So far, it has been but a fairly ordinary forest... although a bit dark...”

That was the impression this forest gave as he walked while being a little cautious against any potential danger.

The atmosphere that these trees and the dense moss growing gave off was a little bit different from that of the ecosystems from Japan. Yet, he felt a sense of security by not seeing particular fantasy-like plants or weird-looking mushrooms.

It is an atmosphere similar to that of the forests of northern Europe, he thought as he remembered a time he had visited there when he was young.

So far, he hadn’t encountered any dangerous plants. While coping up with the trees and undulating topography, he proceeded forwards.

In actuality, it had been a rather smooth walk since he came to this forest. For some strange reason, his whole body felt lighter.

“The only problem would be living creatures...”

What worried him was the possible existence of wild beasts that would be living inside this forest.

After all, this was a foreign ecosystem, with the possibility of it being different from that of Earth.

A natural reaction was to think that [There are always herbivorous creatures in rich forests, and therefore, also carnivorous creatures who feed on them]. A forest as lush as this would probably be also abundant in animal life.

“Carnivorous animals, huh?... Well, I wonder how much of that is true here...”

As one could assume, the type of carnivorous animal depended on the state of the forest. So, he could only make an empirical assumption.

Since he tended use all his vacation days and salary for his hobbies, he had already experienced the wilderness of many countries back on Earth.

His deceased (?) parents were daring, self-proclaimed explorers. They were the cause of his outdoor hobbies, since from a very young age he was made to accompany them in their excursions.

After his parents went missing a few years ago, he decided to leave college and got a job at an ordinary company. The times with consecutive holidays, were also the times when this lonely young man would go outdoors to practice mountain climbing at various places.

“Wolfs and bears, boars too probably. If I take into consideration the forest, those would be the ones, I guess... well then.”

He had a bit of confidence to be able to respond if it was one of those animals, since he actually had confronted them before. Trying to defeat them would be the last resort, and it was always better to avoid the danger if possible.

For that reason, it was always a good habit to try and find places where you could climb the trees to escape as you walked. Surprisingly, there were not many carnivorous animals that could climb trees.

“My tools are... ... all good, everything's here.”

After checking the contents of his large backpack, he put them back inside.

In order to be safe with an outdoor hobby like his, he was armed with goods for self-defense. A machete-like survival knife to slash the tall grass in the mountains, and tear

spray as an anti-bear measure, among several other things.

He couldn't say it out loud, but he also had a "self-defense weapon". It was a tool made to protect himself as a hobby, but it was a "weapon" nonetheless so he didn't want to use if possible.

But considering my situation, I guess I can't have the luxury of saying that. Those were his thoughts as he remembered this was not Japan after all.

"Nn... this sound is... ? "

At that moment.

From the direction he was heading towards to, a "voice" could be heard. Not the cry of a beast, but the voice of an intelligent creature.

"Rather, isn't it more like a "scream"? Looks like someone is calling for help... "

In the next instant, he started sprinting towards that direction. It was somewhat of a rule to stay away from screams if you were in an unfamiliar land.

Because hearing a scream could be linked to a "dangerous" existence nearby.

"It's dangerous... but, people are nearby... "

As he approached closer, the contents of the voice could be clearly heard. It was certainly a person the one who raised that voice.

This was most likely a different world. But it was obvious that it was seeking help with words a Japanese person could understand.

In order to obtain information about this world, he choose to contact that intelligent being, even if it meant he had to take some risks.

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A girl, huh... ?

As he tried to confirm the current situation, he decided to observe while hiding in some bushes nearby and being careful as to not make any noise. There stood a girl, the same person who was seeking for help a while ago.

At a glance, her outward appearance was like that of a foreigner. She was a beautiful young girl with blond hair and blue eyes.

But the words he heard were obviously spoken in Japanese. [Help me!] No matter how one saw it, that was fluent, proper Japanese.

And what is that... animal attacking the girl? Is that not a... ! ?

The foreign-looking girl was cornered by several beasts.

A rabbit... right?

There were several rabbit-looking animals attacking the girl.

However, they were more agile than the rabbits on Earth, and they had large, sharp fangs growing from their mouth, like those of a sabretooth. They used their rear feet to quickly jump at the girl and had already inflicted several wounds on the girl's body.

Seems like a group of carnivorous rabbit-shaped beasts...

His assumptions were somewhat confirmed, this appeared to be a different world. The dreadful sight of rabbits trying to predate on people, caused him to unexpectedly feel a bit overwhelmed.

Chapter 3

Gathering meat and going towards a village

For the sake of helping the girl, he went ahead and defeated the rabbit-like beasts.

"Thank you very much for helping me... Mr. traveler".

The girl covered in light wounds on her limbs conveyed her thankful words. Those words she spoke were heard in proper and fluent Japanese.

"Don't worry about it. It was really nothing".

"To say 'It was really nothing' after defeating those Big Rabbits..."

At his choice of words, the girl got somewhat surprised. But he felt very thankful because she seemed to understand his words.

By the way, the name of the rabbit-like beasts that she was desperately struggling against was Big Rabbits.

In order to help the girl, he was the one who had killed all of the Big Rabbits.

He was surprised when he first saw the rabbits. After all, they had a cute little face while at the same time were relentlessly attacking this girl with their sharp fangs.

But, after looking closely, their movements were very monotonous. And they also looked somewhat slow.

That was what he felt while he was observing them as he was hiding among the bushes.

[I might be able to win, if they're that slow.] Those thoughts filled his mind as he jumped out and slashed the neck of the Big Rabbits. The weapon he used was the survival knife he was carrying on my waist.

"But those were pretty much only oversized rabbits, weren't they?"

Speaking those words, he turned his gaze over to the corpses laying on the ground. To

him, the Big Rabbits were just a size bigger than ordinary rabbits, jumped higher and attacked people.

But he perceived their movements as slow, and if one was careful with their mouth and fangs, they felt not much different from ordinary rabbits.

Somehow, I felt as if my body and movements were light, so I took them down easily. He thought.

"The Big Rabbits are beasts that even the adults of the village have problems dealing with. Moreover, there is nobody in the village who could defeat several of them at the same time."

To his carefree reply, the surprised girl explained.

With their quick movements, they usually aimed to the feet or neck of their victims, attacking them with their sharp fangs. The Big Rabbits were fearful foes whom were omnivorous, but they would never let go of the chance to eat raw meat.

"To call that quick..."

But the girl's explanation seemed weird to him.

Even though he was familiar with outdoor activities, he was no master of fighting nor martial arts. He never thought of him as those masters who seemed to perceive movements in fights as if they were stopped and still.

Due to the influence of his adventurer parents, he had acquired some techniques with the knife and in self-defense. But the fight with the Big Rabbits was not a difficult one and he had cleaved through them with ease.

However, his fighting ability was something worth bragging about.

If he was to fight against a real martial artist in a dojo, he felt confident he would lose one hundred percent of the times. But apparently it was another story here in these forests.

"Excuse me, I'm... kind of lost. If possible, would you take me to the village where you live?"

His current priority was to seek for a place to rest temporarily.

And a moment ago, this girl had said the word "village".

In other words, there was people living not far from here. And above all, people like her, who could speak and understand Japanese, living with her in that village, so he

decided to ask.

“Someone strong like yourself is always welcomed. There are some circumstances, and now “Urd” is just a poor village with a food shortage. Is that ok? ”

“But it’s still safer than this forest, right? ”

“Yeah, leaving aside the food situation, it is a safe place to rest and drinking water is available.”

That was very helpful for him.

At this rate, night would fall while he was still wandering inside the forest. There was nothing more frightening than spending the night in some unknown, unfamiliar forest. And regarding food, his thoughts were, *I’ll just have to deal with it myself.*

“By the way, can these Big Rabbits be eaten? ”

He asked her about the lumps of meat and fur lying at their feet.

“Yes, their meat is a nutritious food, and the fur is also valuable at the village. And according to the village rules, they belong to the one who hunted them.”

“And that would be me, right? ”

“Yeah...”

His food issue was then soon settled too.

With this amount of meat, him starving wouldn’t be a problem for a while.

“Then, I’ll take only half. You can have the rest. Please, think of it as a payment for letting me stay the night.”

“You mean half of the Big Rabbits!? Ok, Thank you very much! ”

Apparently the Big Rabbits were considerable valuable in her village. The girl was delighted, wearing a joyful expression on her face.()

“Well then, let’s get ready and return to your village.”

And so, the negotiations were finished.

After that, they proceeded to drain the blood of the Big Rabbits, and prepared some sticks to hang them on, and started walking on their way to the village.

“You seem pretty skilled in draining their blood.”

Although she looked like a weak girl at first sight, one couldn't help but to admire her figure as she worked hard without even being splashed with blood despite being a young girl.

Incidentally, the internal organs and bleeding technique she used were very similar to that of Japanese hares.

"Yes, even if I look like this, I am a hunter. Speaking of which... It's Liscia."

"Hmm?"

"My name is Liscia... Excuse me for being rude, but Mr. Traveler's name is... ? "

The girl who he had helped introduced herself as Liscia and was asking for his name. He had only noticed now, but since a while ago they have been referring to each other as "you" (kimi) and "Mr. Traveler" (tabibito-sama). *I guess we never introduced ourselves properly*, he thought.

"My name is Yamato... just Yamato is fine."

"Yamato-sama... what a wonderful name..."

"Yamato is fine, no need for honorifics, Leesha-san."

"Yamato-sama... Yamato-sama..."

No use... She's not listening.

Perhaps, even if he corrected her, she would still use the "-sama" out of habit towards adults. Guessing it would be useless, he decided to forget about it.

She looked like the kind of child who escalated things in order to use "-sama" more and more. Of which he had have similar experiences in the past.

"Then, can I ask you to lead the way towards Urd Village, Liscia-san."

"Yes, Yamato-sama."

Therefore, as he followed the girl he recently saved, Liscia, they decided to head towards the village called Urd.

As she described it, the village was a small settlement in the basin of the mountainous region, and they still needed to walk a little while to get there.

As the two of them carried the drained corpses of the Big Rabbits on sticks over their shoulders, they advanced forwards while being wary of their surroundings.

“Let me do it. I’ll help you out a bit.”
“I’m extremely sorry, Yamato-sama.”

Since it was slowing them down, he decided to help with her share of the Big Rabbits, in order to pick up the pace a little. After all, he wasn’t feeling tired at all.

Even so, despite their size, these Big Rabbits are extremely light...

It was a somewhat mysterious feeling.

The Big Rabbits were the size of a medium dog. And despite carrying a few of them, he did not feel like he was carrying that much weight.

As his parents had a hunting gun license, he had hunted with them in the mountains before.

And from those experiences, he could ascertain that “Animal corpses are heavy”. The dead bodies of animals were covered with heavy fur and the meat was still attached to the bones, making them heavier than what people imagined.

Each one of the Big Rabbits seemed to have a weight of a few dozen kilograms. However, even though he was carrying several of them, he still had plenty of strength left.

He found this to be a truly a mysterious phenomenon.

It might be, that the gravity is weak in this world? Or is it that my own strength is growing?

While they walked, various assumptions came to his mind. But he couldn’t only be optimistic.

People were weak creatures, even if they gained a little strength. The weakest of creatures, that couldn’t overcome beasts without the use of weapons or tools.

Anyway, gathering information can wait until after we arrive at Urd Village.

While following the hunter girl Liscia, he headed towards Urd Village in search of a place to rest.

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They followed an animal trail for about an hour while moving towards the village. Coincidentally, he was sure of the time they had spent since he had been secretly measuring it with his wrist watch.

Up to this point he had made several discoveries on their way to the village.

Every now and then he told Liscia to stop, then he went on to collect various plants and mushrooms nearby.

She had a strange look on her face while she watched him go collect them, but that didn't bother him. He felt those might be helpful in the near future.

After a while, they finally reached the village.

"Yamato-sama. That's Urd Village, where I live."

"Ohh, so that's..."

One could see a small village a short distance away from the forest. It was a settlement established at the basin of the mountains.

Smoke was rising from a few rooftops, signaling it was the time to eat dinner.

From this distance, it looked like a medieval-style primitive village similar to those one could see in the books or the internet.

So this is a village from another world. I wonder how things will go from here...

After firmly grabbing the Big Rabbits, he strengthened his vigilance.

As he asked Liscia go ahead, he secretly changed his weapons and tools in his belt for something more suitable for "interpersonal" use, without her noticing. The weapons he had equipped until now were for use against animals.

Liscia had welcomed him warmly.

But he had already experienced traveling though undeveloped lands around the world. And sometimes, there was nothing more terrifying than the inhabitants of a remote village.

Chapter 4

Urd, a village in distress

There was no attack from any wary villager, so he was allowed to get in safely.

“I give you my thanks for saving my granddaughter, Traveler.”

Soon after entering the village, he met with the village chief of Urd.

It appeared that Liscia, the girl he helped out in the forest, was the granddaughter of the village chief.

“Don’t worry about it. I was just passing by.”

“Hohohoho, you don’t have to humble yourself Yamato-sama.”

The elderly village chief amiably expressed his appreciation. He looked like a polite person, the clothes he wore were a colorful costume similar to those he had seen from people living in the mountains back on Earth.

“I believe Liscia already told you about it, but I’d appreciate if you could provide me with a place to spend the night without having to worry about the rain. It doesn’t matter if it’s a horse shed.”

He decided to ask in order to confirm about the sleeping place deal he had made with Liscia beforehand.

And after handed over the half of the hunted Big Rabbits, he thought it would be good if he could spend the night here safely.

Let’s leave this village as soon as I gather some information...

He had no plans to stay around anymore than necessary.

He was going to try using his night staying in the village as a way to find out more about this world. Among the things he wanted to know were the way to the nearest town, the social class system and the economics of this world.

By talking to Liscia and the village chief, he had already learned that this was a world

where one could communicate using the Japanese language. Therefore, the first thing to do would be to travel to a big city in order to get a decent job. Money could be earned by doing a variety of things, from different physical labor jobs to tending to a shop as a clerk.

This village is too isolated. If possible, I'd like to go to a more homogeneous city, I'd feel safer that way.

He was a stranger to the ways of this world. Also, his black eyes and hair were too conspicuous, bearing the distinct facial features of an oriental person.

With him not being familiar with the economic ideologies of the cities of this world either, he might stand out. But in order to survive while procuring food, clothing and shelter, there was a need to obtain local currency, even if he had to conceal his identity.

“There is a vacant house at the outskirts of the village. Although is a bit of a run-down house, you can use it freely to stay the night. Hey, Liscia. Please show Yamato-sama the way.”

“Yes, ojii-sama.”

With the meeting between him and the village chief over, Liscia was asked to lead him to the house.

She had already changed from her hunter outfit she wore when they first met in the forest. And was wearing colorful clothes similar to those the village chief wore. Without concerning about the aesthetic standards of this world, one could confidently say that this girl was beautiful despite being so young.

“Although it is a bit rude for me to say it, but this is a very lonesome village, huh.”

He spoke to her while walking through the village, while choosing his words careful so as to not anger Liscia, who was walking next to him.

“It was once a thriving village with a rich culture. But recently, misfortune kept falling on us...”

“Misfortune... Is that why there's only children and elderly people in the village? “

“Did you notice that... ?”

“Oh, so I was correct.”

There was this sense of incongruity since he first entered the village. Then, as he talked with the village chief and now walked around the village, that feeling turned into conviction.

[There's only children and elderly people in the village of Urd] , that idea gave the feeling this village had some kind of mysterious situation.

Even now, as they walked, he could only see the occasional curious glance of a child or the wary and sharp gaze of some thin, old people.

“It all started some time ago... ”

While they walked, Liscia briefly explained the situation surrounding the village.



It happened a few weeks ago.

The army of the Lord who rules this area suddenly started marching. Urd, a small settlement, was tentatively under the patronage of said Lord. By paying taxes, the village was recognized for many years with ethnic autonomy.

[Search everywhere! Look inside the houses, even in the livestock pens!]

But that didn't matter, the lord ordered his soldiers to occupy this village without paying any heed to their words. They had no idea what he was looking for. Stir rose all across the village.

[Is it not here yet... or are they hiding it? Hey, capture all the Urdians except the old ones and the children!]

After finishing their search, the Lord ordered to his soldiers. According to his orders, the soldiers tied up all the adults in the village. In addition, they also took all the grains stockpiled and the livestock we had.

[I don't plan on killing you. But if anyone dares to resists, I will massacre every person in the village.]

The Lord threatened the villagers who tried to make a stand with those terrible words. Therefore, since Urd was originally a pacifist village, everyone decided to obey. Thus, this frontier village in the mountains, Urd had become a village with only old

people and children.

“After that, bad things continued to happen...”

Liscia continued to talk with a sorrowful tone.

A rumor spread that the Lord had abandoned this area, which caused a bandit group to appear. They targeted the road leading to the town, and with that, the peddlers no longer stopped by Urd, causing it to become economically isolated.

“Salt and miscellaneous goods are essential, therefore the need to rely on peddlers is huge...”

There was also a plan to go out and buy directly from the town. But if they were to be attacked by the bandits, there would be no adult to protect them.

“The biggest problem right now is the food shortage...”

In recent years, the crop yield had continued to drop. The main crop, which was a type of wheat, became sickly as the harvested volume continued to drastically decrease. And with the Lord taking away the stockpiled food and the livestock, the life-threatening food shortage was at its peak at the village.

“Therefore, I went hunting to the woods, even though I knew it was very dangerous.”

The blessings the forest had to offer were many.

However, there were also many dangerous beasts in the forests, like the Big Rabbits. And with the adult hunters being taken away, there was nobody who could use the bow aside from Liscia.

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“And the story now leads us to the present...”

Liscia's sorrowful explanation came to an end.

“I see. It is indeed a dire situation.”

He muttered to himself as they continued to walk.

After listened to her story, he became aware of the circumstances surrounding the

village. It was certainly a considerable crisis looking at it from his perspective, taking into account that the world where he came from was a place where food was easily obtainable.

Anyway, the village was not lively at all, and the atmosphere felt stagnated. The eyes of the villagers were dead and without ambition, as they sat at the sides of the road, too hungry to even move.

It pained his heart just by looking at them.

“Anyway, the biggest problem in the village was the food shortage. With the stream’s water, the river fish and some edible wild grass, we’ve managed to stay alive so far, but if things remain as they are now, the village will eventually...”

Liscia deeply gazed at the villagers, watching their current state caused her face to become dark and gloomy. She had a cheerful look on her face up until now but was probably just forcing herself. Incidentally, the village chief also seemed to be forcing himself to smile.

If one looked at her exposed neck and arms, she indeed looked thin, similar to the other villagers. It would not be strange if she had some places a little more developed considering her age.

Maybe, even though she was the granddaughter of the village chief, allocating more food for her was impossible. After all, she was hunting all alone in that dangerous forest.

“Sorry to just keep on complaining. Look, that will be Yamato-sama’s borrowed house. You can use the river for drinking water, and as for the fireplace, you can freely use the firewood as I already explained.”

Liscia showed him to a small, one story house.

It was an old house made with boards and clay for the walls. It seemed to be built with the mountain tribe’s unique building method.

“Since this is an uninhabited house, please feel free to use it. Also... It’s ok if you want to stay for a while!”

“Only one night is fine.”

“Is that so... if there’s something you need, I’ll be at the village chief house.”

After replying with a slightly sad look on her face, Liscia walked away. He now needed

to finish dismantling the Big Rabbits hunted earlier.

After the girl walked away, it was just Yamato alone in that house.

“Well then, where should I begin...”

He said, speaking to no one in particular. It was a habit of his, to speak his thoughts out loud in order to focus.

What he had learned up to this point and what he learned from his observation was that this village was in quite a crisis.

There was also no hostility directed towards him, who was an outsider. *I might have made a good enough impression by saving the village chief's granddaughter*, he assumed.

“But I cannot remain optimistic...”

It was unknown to him what customs a remote village like this one might have.

Perhaps they play the good people act and are secretly deceiving me, he thought. *If that's the case, I might get attacked in my sleep and be deprived of my belongings. Or maybe this tribe has a cannibalistic culture.*

Perhaps he might be overthinking, but it was a fact that he had a similar experience as he was traveling in southeast Asia. If it happened on Earth in the 21st century, it wouldn't be strange for it to happen in this undeveloped world. In other words, it meant one could ever be too cautious.

“First of all, I need to manage my valuables. Then I'll make something to eat.”

After lowering his mountain climbing backpack, and putting away the tools he had on him, he grabbed the ones he thought might be necessary for now. While he was in the middle of a mountain climbing trip, he was suddenly transported here. Therefore his luggage consisted of a tent, survival goods, clothing, food and water.

However, depending on these items might not be the best idea.

After all, this was a different world with a low level of civilization. It would be one thing if it were a few days trip. But let alone days or weeks, *I might have to spend years in this world*, he thought.

“I'll have to consider using local supplies as much as possible instead, considering my limited supply...”

I have to get ready to live in this world until the day I die. Since those were his thoughts, he decided not to depend on the tools he brought from Japan as much as possible. If possible, returning to his original world was the best option, but realistically, the possibilities of that happening were quite low. First of all, he didn't even know the reason, nor the theory behind his sudden transportation to this world.

“Good, I can use the wooden board here to hang it and hide de backpack.”

After wandering inside the run-down house, he found a nice place to secretly hide his gear.

It was a storage spot where he could safely hide the big backpack he was carrying. It was a place which the villagers would not be able to easily find.

“I guess today is fine with only taking out the minimum.”

He moved the necessary minimum survival gear to a spare small backpack which could be carried around easily...

He also took out some utensils such as a survival knife, a small pot, some seasonings, spoon and knife, basically, an all-purpose cookware set.

“If I can, I would like not being forced to use this...”

He said as he grabbed some of his personal self-defense equipment.

The anti-bear tear spray and the electrical stun rod were for mountain use. Those were “weapons” too dangerous to be used on people.

“What's left is, the thing about my body movements... ?”

After taking a deep breath, he threw a kick into the air.

Next, a shotei (open palm) strike followed by an elbow strike. Finally, he practiced a series of stabbing and parrying motions with the survival knife.

These were the type of self-defense techniques that were hammered to him since he was young, by his self-proclaimed adventurer parents.

“My movements have become somewhat scary, after all. Several times better than

when I was in Japan... ”

Convinced of such, he finished the series of movements in the empty hall of the house. It was clear that the physical ability of his body was improving. Of course, it was not only limited to muscular strength and agility, but also his eyesight and five senses seemed to have improved.

“I guess it wasn’t really a coincidence that I could easily defeat the Big Rabbits in the forest earlier.”

He felt somewhat surprised of the way he could trace the self-defense movements better than he expected. It was as if his body followed perfectly the image on his mind of those movements.

“Is it because the gravity is weaker in this world compared to Earth’s? Or is it because my body is somewhat influenced by something else? ”

This unexpected improvement in this unknown world was a pleasant miscalculation. But he remembered, *I can’t be too optimistic.*

For now, he had nobody he could truly trust. Not only the village chief and the villagers, that was true even for the girl named Liscia.

Hmm... ?

It was as he was thinking that.

While inside the house, he felt a presence. There were the presences of several people outside the building.

Well, aside from that... this number of people...

Taking a glance outside the small window he tried to conceal his presence. Without having to think of what to do, he prepared himself. In order to take quick actions and overwhelm the opponent.

I estimate around some tens of people...

Before he knew it, he was surrounded inside the house. By countless villagers whose sharp eyes could be seen.

Chapter 5

A dazzling smile

He was surrounded by what appeared to be dozens of villagers.

“Hey, I know you are hiding. Come out already.”

He spoke those words from inside the house. Strangely enough, he couldn't feel any murderous intent coming from them.

As they suddenly showed up themselves, he couldn't be sure they were here to attack. So perhaps he thought he might be misunderstanding something.

While firmly holding his self-defense weapon, he took a look at the other party through a window.

“I'm sorry... we didn't mean to surprise you...”

Along with those words, a person who seemed to be their leader came closer out from the shadows of a nearby building.

There were quite a few of them, but none of them were armed.

Kids?... Children from the village?

What had surrounded him were children from the village.

Their ages seemed to span from kindergarten children, up to upper elementary school students. They were about half and half boys and girls, but by their looks one could speculate about their ages.

Taking a closer look at them, they are extremely thin... probably on the verge of malnutrition.

While thinking so, he unconsciously furrowed his brows at the sight of these children. Their arms and legs sticking out from their colorful clothes were surprisingly slim. Their skin also looked dry, although it was supposed to be smooth due to their growth period.

Perhaps it was due to the fact that they couldn't eat enough because of the lack of food.

But... at least their eyes are not dead.

Strangely enough, every one of these children had a shine in their eyes. They kept staring at him, as he walked out of the house, almost as if they were watching something rare.

“What do you want? “

While wary of the surroundings, I asked the boy who appeared to be the leader. Being the only one in the group with a good physique, they probably gathered around him.

“I heard it from Liscia-neechan. She said that an amazing person, who defeated several Big Rabbits, had come to the village. ”

“That’s right, and with his amazing swordplay he cleaved through them. ”

“She also said he was a traveler from a foreign country! “

The children started speaking all at the same time. Seemingly hearing it from the girl Liscia, they had come to take a glance at the sudden guest.

The wonderful swordsman who saved Liscia from danger while she was in the forest. The wandering warrior who wore strange clothes but had a gentle look on his face, those were the words they kept saying as they came closer.

“Tell us, from which country do you come from?”

“The rumor says that he came from the west, beyond the Great Mountains! ”

“Where were you heading in your journey?! “

Obviously dropping all wariness, they flocked all around Yamato, asking one question after another.

Their innocent eyes shone as they stared straight at him. Pure and interest eyes, without any intent of hostility.

They apparently mean no harm. I wonder if they are just really hungry for entertainment...

They wanted to listen.

About stories and event of distant lands that couldn’t be heard in this remote village.

About a hero's tale and his journey as a brave warrior.

The purity in their eyes reminded Yamato of the times when he was traveling the world.

Something similar happened to him with the inhabitants of a mysterious isolated village in Tibet. For those in the tribe who lived while refusing contact with the outer world, they lived as the happiest people, not knowing even how to doubt others.

"Hey, everyone, calm down! You're going to be a bother! Don't forget the reason why we came here in the first place!"

"Oh, you're right!"

"Hey, everyone has it?"

After the leader boy spoke to the rest of the children, they calmed down a bit.

Some of them placed their hands inside their pockets and took something out. They handed it over to the leader boy and he then moved in front of Yamato.

"We thought about giving Nii-chan this, that's why everyone came..."

What the boy offered were some tree nuts.

They were a variety Yamato had not seen yet, but they closely resembled walnuts. One could tell from its shape, they had already taken the task of breaking the shell, and they could be eaten just as they presented them.

"It is a custom of Urd Village, to give a present to the travelers who come. It is a sort of a proof of being welcomed!"

Urd was a remote village in the mountainous region, and probably only few people had ever come even since a long time ago.

So the villagers prepared a gift as a sign of welcome, to those travelers who took the trouble to come all the way to here, with pure sincerity. Their gifts were something that was considered valuable to themselves.

Once he careful thought about it, this reasoning explained it so.

"But this is your food, isn't it? isn't it precious to you?"

In truth, he always had a hard time dealing with children. So, he tried his hardest to inquire while using gentle words.

“Yeah... Lately there’s barely anything to eat. All because the Lord took it all away. All of us children in the village can only get our hands on a small amount of food...”
“I see, I figured as much.”

The food shortage appears to be more serious than he first thought.
The limited food was probably given preferentially to those who could perform some kind of job. So, the first ones to eat were the old people who could still move around, and the older children.
But for the others, the amount of food they got was like a drop in a bucket.

I guess... they are trying to reduce the amount of mouths to feed.

Even in Japan, there were areas where the number of children was reduced by that same practice during poverty times. So, the food shortage in the village was apparently very serious, enough to even make them use such practice.

“But if you give this to me, then your share will be reduced.”

“That’s true... but regardless, this is a welcome custom. And we really want to get along no matter what! ”

“Get... along? ”

To his question, the boy answered some unexpected words. And being late at understanding their meaning, he ended up repeating them.

“With Nii-chan... Who is like the Hero-King who appears in the legends of Urd, I wanted to get along with a strong and sturdy person like yourself! ”

“Ahh, that’s sly. I also want to be friends with him! ”

“Me too! ”

“Also, me... ”

The children started to raise their hand with loud voices. They surrounded him and tried to be the first to talk to him.

It was a strange sight, one he had never experienced before.

Every one of them was a starving child.

They probably hadn’t even eating anything decent in the last few days. Both their arms and legs looked scrawny.

But even so, they're shining... so much it's dazzling...

Everyone's eyes were shinning. Even in such a situation, where they were practically at the abyss of despair, their eyes were sparkling.

They should be already exhausted from their situation, and suffering hunger beyond what he could imagine. What was more, with their parents taken away, their days should be filled with nothing but loneliness.

But despite that... their expression was a lively one, one that purely believed there was still hope.

"Ok... I guess it's fine. I'll tell you stories about my country... about the place where I came from..."

As he tried to soothe the crowd of children, he decided to speak in a lower tone. And so, he began telling them the story about the lush countryside where the town he was born was in.

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The winters were severe, there were areas with heavy snowfalls where even going outside was a hard task.

But after that, during spring, the beautiful cherry trees bloomed, giving hope to the hearts of people. After that came the preparations for the summer festivals, while also putting efforts towards the agricultural work at the farmlands.

And after enjoying the short summer days from the depths of the heart, it finally came the busiest season. Everyone came together to do the rice harvesting, and also the fruit harvesting. Everyone helped with the harvest, all the adults as well as all the children.

And after the harvest festival, came the preparations for the tough winter. That was the unchanged life that happened year after year.

But that same scenic change during the four seasons was what gave people hope.

[Surely the flowers will bloom brighter after a tough season.]

That was to tell the children the importance of the concept of nature.

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“It will get dark soon. Take care going back home.”

With the story over, the kids then returned to their homes. Since the adults were taken away, the houses surely felt lonely, with only children and old people.

“Well then, let’s start making dinner...”

Before he knew it, it was already past sunset, which meant it was time for dinner. In a village like this, where fuel was valuable, it was normal to make dinner before the sunset, and then go to bed after it became dark.

As an outdoor hobbyist, he didn’t worry about waking up late, since his body clock always woke him up when he was outdoors camping.

“A meal, huh...”

He was transported to a strange, different world. But luckily, for the moment he had secured some food.

And at the very least, he still had the emergency food stash at his backpack for mountain climbing. And also the already bled and dismantled Big Rabbit meat that he hunted in the forest earlier.

Aside from that, there were also the wild vegetables, the mushrooms and herbs he had gathered while they came to the village.

Especially, the quantity of Big Rabbit meat was considerable, and since it was raw it needed to be eaten with top priority.

Lucky for him, he had the proper cookware to cook it.

“A tree nut...?”

He spew those words as he glance at the little nuts in his hand.

With a shape similar to walnuts, they were given to him by the village children. A welcoming gift that caused them to reduce their own share of food.

“They sleep in beds like this... and eat this kind of food...”

While muttering so, he made up his mind.

Taking the nuts in his hand, he tossed them into his mouth.
He savored them slowly as he took his time chewing them. As he did so, he remembered the dazzling smiles of the children.

“It won’t fill their bellies at all, if it’s something as small as this... ”

In just a quick moment, the nuts he was eating disappeared inside his stomach. Even if he tried to swallow a lot of saliva along with the nut, it did nothing to sate his hunger. And this was probably true for the whole village.

“I guess I should go to sleep soon. Tomorrow’s morning will be a “busy” one... ”

He decided to lie down after having eaten ‘dinner’.

He didn’t touch the emergency food, nor the Big Rabbit meat. What he ate was just a token meal that didn’t add anything to cheat the feeling of hunger.

“I guess this is where ‘a debt of gratitude towards a night’s lodging and a meal’ came from, right... ?”

(TN: read as “accepting one’s kindness”, written as “a debt of gratitude towards a night’s lodging and a meal”)

That quiet mutter got lost inside the house. Those were absolute words taught from his parents from an early age.

“Seriously, I guess I can also be pampered sometimes... ”

After whispering those words, he finally fell deep into sleep.

Chapter 6

Getting ready to eat breakfast

Inside the house that was borrowed from Urd's village chief, morning came, and Yamato woke up before the sun had risen.

"Morning, huh... ?"

As he stood up, he began confirming his physical condition and state of the luggage. Nothing was out of place in the room and the surroundings, his luggage was untouched and he felt physically great.

"Well then, I suppose I should start getting ready to prepare breakfast."

After making sure that everything was ready, he headed outside the house, to the outdoor kitchen next to it in order to cook breakfast. The back of the house was where the kitchen was built.

He gathered the water flowing from the stream which Liscia told him about, and afterwards, using some firewood and leaves that were in a corner of the house he prepared to start a fire. Although the village was suffering a food shortage, with a forest and a river nearby, the water and firewood supply was abundant.

"Now, let's light the fire."

After filling the pot with water, he lighted the fire.

He decided against using the gas lighter since it was expendable. In an instant, the fire was started with a metal match usually used for survival outings.

In order to live in this different world which apparently had a low level of civilization, he couldn't keep depending on consumables.

"Well, for now, I suppose a chunk of the Big Rabbit this size would do."

His next task was, to finish with the dismantling of the rabbits.

They already removed the internal organs and drained their blood yesterday. It

apparently was the same in this world, and the meat became smelly if it was not properly drained of blood immediately after killing it. What was next was peeling off the fur and leaving just the meat attached to the bones, in order for it to be easier to eat.

“If I remember correctly, the fur is a valuable item.”

Yesterday, Liscia had told him that the fur of the Big Rabbits could be used to barter in the village. And while thinking about the future, he decided to properly do this process.

The village chief had also told him that there was a professional leather craftsman, so later this skin could be traded in exchange for some necessary supplies.

“Now I just need to grill it with some salt and herbs.”

The dismantled Big Rabbit thigh was seasoned with some spices and salt, then placed inside the heated kiln.

That scene somewhat resembled a barbecue picnic.

“This Big Rabbit meat is giving off such a nice smell.”

Perhaps placing the wild animal’s meat next to the fire like this, was one of the first cooking methods that people who began walking the path of civilization used. A common cooking method, both on Earth and this other world.

The scent of the meat juices started spreading, so stimulating for the appetite.

“Right, the soup should also be ready.”

The sound of boiling water could be heard coming from the pot. And after confirming the boiling soup, he tasted it.

The pot was filled to the brim with soup.

It was a stew made with some wild vegetables, mushroom and herbs, so the smell it gave off was pleasant. Incidentally, he had already consulted with Liscia about the vegetables and mushrooms he wasn’t sure, confirming they weren’t poisonous. He also took a small bite off them just in order to make sure.

Since he was raised by his self-proclaimed adventurer parents, he had developed some special skills. One of them was to perceive the taste of poisons.

To put it in simple terms, after lightly nibbling a food, he could tell if there was the presence of something poisonous. It was a sort of wisdom acquired from experience since a young age. And along with that wisdom, were the many memories of how much he had suffered from his early failures.

“Anyway, the mushrooms and vegetables are similar to those of Earth... At least these are.”

The wild vegetables and mushrooms he placed inside the pot had a familiar shape. He noticed them as he was coming to the village yesterday with Liscia, returning using the animal trail. The beast called Big Rabbit caught him by surprise, but the trees and plants inside the forest were all mostly normal.

Once dismantled, the Big Rabbit was also just an ordinary animal. Aside from their sharp fangs and huge size, their internal organs and muscles were very similar to those of Japanese rabbits.

Truly mysterious.

“Well then, shall I start with the slightly charred meat?”

At the time he finished, the sun started to shine brightly in the sky, so a little time had already passed after the sunrise. Cooking smoke could also be seen rising from the center of Urd Village.

Even as someone who liked the outdoors, this archaic life style sure felt fast for him. Everyone woke up and got ready in the morning, before the sun had even risen. Then later, they ate dinner and went to sleep as soon as the sun went down.

This “early rising, early sleeping” was the original cycle created by nature.

“Good, seems like my seasoning was not bad.”

After cutting a piece of slightly charred meat from the tight with a knife, he tasted it. Big Rabbit meat was quite delicious, and had a wild taste. After finishing sampling it, he arranged the meat in a plate. He also served the vegetable soup in a bowl and finished setting everything up.

“When you see it arranged like this, this sure looks like a luxurious breakfast.”

The juicy Big Rabbit meat, grilled with spices, gave off a stimulating aroma. It was many times juicier than the rabbit meat he had eaten back on Earth, and visually it

was also quite appealing.

One couldn't complain about the western style soup, emanating its nice scent drifting in the air. It was probably due to the forest's rich nutrients which were absorbed by the mushrooms and vegetables. They appeared to be many times more delicious than the ones growing in the Japanese mountains and forests.

"Ok, should I start eating? But before that..."

As he started to get ready to eat this long-awaited breakfast, he turned around to take a look at his surroundings.

"Isn't about time that you guys come out?"

Those words were spoken towards the signs of people hiding in the surroundings. It appeared that they gathered here because of the smell of the cooking he did earlier.

"Sorry, Nii-chan..."

"It's because it smelled really good..."

gulp

The children in the village were the ones hiding and secretly watching him. They were the boys and girls who were excitedly talking to him yesterday.

"I knew we were not supposed to, but... I'm sorry, it's just that..."

Despite being warned by the village chief to not to inconvenience their guest, their hunger won and got the best of them.

"No need to be sorry. I was actually waiting for you."

That was his reply to the children. While trying to smile as much as possible, Yamato began explaining to them. About how he purposely made a fragrant dish in order to lure the hungry children.

"Uhm... what does that mean... ?"

The children, not knowing the meaning of his words, just tilted their head in confusion.

"Is there someone among you who knows how to dismantle a rabbit?"

But disregarding their confusion, he went on and asked them a question. From this point on a lot of meat was needed, since many children had gathered.

“Yeah, if it’s just that...”

“Ok, then give me a hand.”

Several of the children with better physique came forward. They were tasked with the dismantling the rest of the Big Rabbits.

“Next, bring one of the big pots that are inside the house. The rest of you, go fetch some water and prepare some firewood to cook.”

“Uh... ok.”

“Ok, let’s hurry! “

In response to his sudden instructions, the children just nodded, still wondering what this was about. They still didn’t seem to understand what was happening.

But since they had nothing to eat, and there was nothing else for them to do at this moment, they simply obeyed those instructions.

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After a while, cooking was finally completed.

“Good, it has a nice taste. Everyone, come gather closer.”

With the finished soup pot in front of him, Yamato called to the children. The big pot was one that was borrowed from Liscia earlier, saying that it was no longer used in the village anyways.

Later, she worried that something might have happened and came rushing to where Yamato was.

“Yamato-sama... what is this... ?”

Liscia tilted her head as she walked closer.

That was actually the normal reaction, after all, a large pot filled to the brim with soup was being cooked.

After dismantled several of the Big Rabbits with the help of some children, they were cooked together with the wild vegetables and mushrooms in this pot.

It couldn't be helped for her to worry about what was going on.

"This food is soft on the stomach, it also helps with the digestion, it's called Gomoku Nabe."

"Gomoku... nabe... ?"

The name might be a little wrong since it didn't have all the proper ingredients. However, the mushroom quantity was enough, and its stimulating scent was drifting all around the place.

It was a similar dish to the one his parents made when they were camping while he was young, or at least that what he tried to make.

"Ok, next is serving it. Everyone, come help yourselves."

He talked to the children who were staring at the large pot while drooling. Because the time was short, he decided to prepare something that was relatively quick to make.

"Eh... for us too... ?"

"But, this is Niichan's food... "

The children were surprised.

Because travelers, who came to a village with a food shortage, wouldn't usually share their food so willingly.

"Take it as thanks for accepting last night's kindness. Call for the other children as well."

"I'm not sure what that difficult word means... but I understand! Yamato-niichan! "

"Good, go and call everyone! "

"Careful kids, it is still hot, don't burn yourself after being served. "

The food then was then divided among the children, served in wooden bowls they got from the village.

There was a considerable amount, since all the Big Rabbit meat was used. Luckily, the vegetables from the forest also served to fill their belly, along with the stock.

"This is Liscia-san's share."

"Eh, my share... "

“With your body, this much should be adequate.”

“Ok... thank you very much, Yamato-sama...”

He handed over a wooden bowl to Liscia, who despite almost reaching adulthood in this world, looked very thin overall.

As the rest of the children gathered together, the meal preparation was finally over.

“Ok, everyone. Listen before you start eating.”

He spoke very slow and while trying to be as polite as possible. He took a look at the faces of the boys and girls who were holding the wooden bowl filled with soup in their hands in anticipation.

Drool was already falling from their mouths, yet they carefully listened to his words.

“Right now you have trouble finding what to eat in the village, right?”

“Yeah...”

“Ever since that day, every day has been very hard...”

Answering his question, all the children nodded their head.

They spoke of the evil Lord who took their parents along with most of their food, leaving them with nothing, barely scraping by the day to get some food in their mouths.

“If you eat that soup, for today, you will fill your belly. But there will be nothing left for tomorrow.”

He continued talking to the children who were patiently waiting before they started eating.

Although a Big Rabbit was a big animal, if it was divided among this number of people, it would be depleted very fast.

“I’m sure you already heard about it, but the harsh winter will come soon. When that moment comes, what will you do? Are you planning to starve to death while trembling in a corner due to the cold?”

He felt bad since he was probably being a little tough on them, but this was their reality.

After spending the night here he had discovered the precarious current state of the village.

This village by the lakeside had been able to barely survive with the river fish and the mountain vegetables for a while.

However, unless food that could last longer, such as grains and dried meat was collected. It would be very difficult for this village to survive the coming winter.

“We... don’t want to die...”

“I want to live more...”

These children were probably already aware of their reality. As they answered, their heads turned downwards and their faces were covered with dark and gloomy expressions. Some sobbing sounds could also be heard from among the children.

These were all boys and girls who were probably not even at elementary school age, by Japan’s standards. But they all wanted to live, and had dreams of a bright future.

“If that’s the case, then I’ll teach you how to survive.”

“Eh...”

“But, Nii-chan is a traveler, you will soon have to leave the village...”

Everyone was surprised at those words. If one was to think of it normally, there was nothing left but to leave this remote village since nothing could be gained by staying here.

“But, ‘those who won’t work, won’t eat’, got it?”

“Those who won’t work... ?”

“Yeah. It means that if you want to survive tomorrow and have something to eat, you will need to work for it. Only those who are prepared for that, can eat from this pot.”

After quoting a Japanese proverb, he explained to them.

Even a small child would choose to work in order to survive. Because there were no adults, a life filled with hard work was what would probably be ahead of them.

No matter whether they knew or didn’t, would they really be able to decide on such way of life in order to survive? No matter if one believed in God or not, this was something only they could decide for themselves.

To the sudden heavy contents of the talk, everyone closed their mouths and was

unable to give an immediate reply.

“...I will work! ”

“I’ll do it too! ”

“Me too! ”

However, the next moment, the voices of the children rose one after another. That voice spread like fire and soon everyone present was sharing the same intention.

“Even if my teachings are hard? ”

“No problem! We will work hard! ”

“It’s better to live, than to die because we couldn’t do anything about it! ”

The children steeled their resolve as they gave one last confirmation.

It was hard to find anything to do or eat if the situation in the village remained as it was now. But if they really gave their best, they could at least eat proper meals.

“I get it. Then, ‘Itadakimasu’, I’ll start eating first.”

“Itadakimasu?... Ok, I understand! Itadakimasu! ”

“Itadakimasu! ”

“Me too, Itadakimasu! ”

Imitating his Japanese manners, the children one after the other, gave their thanks and began eating.

They probably were very hungry. Each and every one of them started to eat earnestly.

“Properly chew on everything. Otherwise, you might upset your stomach and throw up.”

Spending time without a decent diet caused the stomach to become smaller and it made it harder for it to digest food. Because of that, the soup was cooked until everything was soft in order for it to be properly digested, but just in case, he told them to swallow their food only after chewing it thirty times.

“Yamato-niichan, we can only count to ten.”

“Then, count to ten three times. That will be thirty.”

“I see! Ok, I’ll do that! ”

The children were very obedient.

They properly followed those instructions, so Yamato felt the need to follow them too. This not only improved the digestion, it also helped feeling sated sooner, so it was like killing two birds with one stone.

“Yamato-sama also knows how to do calculation...”

“Is not that big of a deal.”

Suddenly, Liscia whom had kept quiet this whole time and was just watching the situation, commented.

Apparently in this village, even simple multiplications were not widely spread, and she was astonished at his earlier simple mental calculation.

Similar to the rest of the children, she was also eating the soup bowl.

“By the way, would Liscia-san go hunting to the forest today too?”

“Yes, I’m a hunter after all...”

“Then, could you prepare the things I’m about to tell you?”

“Yes, if its only that, then there’s no problem. There is a lot of unused equipment left alone in the empty houses.”

Liscia nodded after hearing the list of good requested to her.

Among the people in the village, Liscia’s intelligence seemed to be above the average. By being the granddaughter of the village chief, she probably received some education.

“But before that... does that mean that Yamato-sama will stay in the village for the time being? ”

Judging from the contents of the request and the interactions with the children, Liscia concluded that he was going to stay in the village for a longer time.

“I’ll be intruding on you for a short while. Would that be a problem? ”

“Not at all! You are obviously very welcomed! I’ll be happy to help you with anything you need! ”

After hearing his answer, she smiled while slightly shedding tears. Most likely, she had

endured this heavy load for so long.

And after eating enough soup from the pot, her expression was brighter than yesterday's. It was a pure and beautiful smile, suitable for a young girl such as her. This was probably her normal expression.

"Hey, you guys. We will eat the rest of the hot pot at night, so leave it there. It will soon be time to get to work."

"Eh? Does that mean we can eat again tonight?"

"Ok, I understand!"

"I'll do my best working!"

After finishing breakfast, over half of the soup was left in the pot.

Thanks to the variety of ingredients, its taste was surprisingly good.

The children who finally filled their bellies after a long time without having a decent meal, were happily smiling while touching their bellies.

gratitude towards a night's lodging and a meal, huh?... I guess I will help them solve the food shortage to some extent...

Since the time he ate the children's gift last night, he had already decided to do something for them in return.

His initial plan was to stay in this village for one night, and then he had planned to move to a bigger city.

But those plans had now changed a little bit.

It'll only be for a little while.

He might not be able to return to his original world. Probably, a long journey was still ahead of him.

If that was so, a little time could be spared staying in this village.

Dear me, I guess this matter is settled then...

While making excuses in his mind he smiled wryly, and continued to eat from his bowl while looking at the remaining soup in the pot.

Chapter 7

First step towards the village reformation

After having breakfast and having finished the preparation, Yamato led the children towards the forest.

Of course, the village chief also gave his consent.

After walking for around half an hour in the animal trail, they arrived at a place near the lake, there began the explanation to the children about the plants.

“Ok, we will harvest the wild plants growing around here and place them on the handcart.”

“But, Yamato-niichan... these are “cursed fruits”...they cannot be eaten... ”

The leader-like boy said as he pointed to a plant in front of us.

The children in the village had prior knowledge about the local plants. They were taught about the plants that grew by the water, and they told him about this one specifically. This one was particularly toxic and shouldn't be eaten.

“It is as Guts says, Yamato-sama. We are not supposed to eat this plant, it is called Inahon.”

Liscia, who was standing next to Yamato, also confirmed the same fact. As the granddaughter of the village chief, she had been taught plenty of things since a young age. Coincidentally, Guts was the name of the leader-like boy.

“I see, so this is called Inahon, huh? Poisonous... Since this is bad for your stomach, has any of you been feeling unwell or with a stomachache?”

“Uh, everyone's fine Yamato-niichan! ”

“I ate that soup until I was full! ”

“Rather than unwell, I'm feeling great! ”

The children began answering to each other at his sudden question unaware of the meaning.

They showed a better countenance compared to last night, and their eyes had a

brighter gleam. As they were currently in their growing period, so long as they properly ate, they would soon recover their strength.

"I want you to listen properly to this. This is not a poisonous plant. The proof of that is me and you. Because among the vegetables in the soup this morning, this Inahon was also cooked inside the pot."

Speaking slowly, so that there was no confusion, he began explaining.

He told them that in the stew they ate earlier, the Inahon grain was also present, and everybody had already eaten it. Of course, before he shared it with the children, he tested it for poison.

He continued explaining about this grain-like fruit called Inahon, telling them that after being boiled with the meat and mushrooms in the pot, it was very soft and delicious.

"Eh!? Perhaps, it was that chewy grain that was in the pot..."

"It was amazingly delicious!"

"What! That means Inahon was not a cursed fruit at all!"

The children were convinced after that explanation.

Since they had experienced it on they own, they then judged that the story they have heard so far was just a mistaken superstition.

Children were after all, better at having a flexible mind at times like these when compared to adults. This was because their concepts weren't deeply rooted, so fixing their wrong ideas could be done fast.

"So you were also collecting Inahon yesterday, Yamato-sama..."

Liscia, who was surprised at first was now also convinced. It was due to the fact that she also ate the same meal as everyone, and showed no adverse effects. *Well, I do feel a little guilty about tricking everyone and deceiving them into eating it,* thought Yamato while wryly smiling in his mind.

"Back in my hometown, a grain extremely similar to this was a staple food. I immediately recognized it when I saw it."

He said as his gaze rested on the natural "paddy field" spreading in front of his eyes. Accurately speaking — — — — this "Inahon" was in fact a "rice plant". The true identity of this plant was rice.

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I never expected to find a plant so similar to rice in a different world...

While Yamato and Liscia were on their way to the village yesterday, he found this natural paddy field and almost jumped from the excitement. That sudden sight was really astonishing, soon coming into view shortly after leaving the forest.

But there existed the possibility that this was just a plant similar in appearance. So, in order to confirm his suspicions, he secretly grabbed some of it and took it with him. He also wanted to see how it would actually look like when cooked.

It's taste before cooked was like that of normal rice. Although it might be some kind of ancient variety of rice, the taste was still the same of that of rice...

After tasting the rice, he couldn't sense any toxin, so its safety was confirmed. Then after secretly putting some of it in the pot to try it, he wondered about what kind of reaction the village children would have after eating it.

And the strategy proved successful.

The children were happily eating the rice in the pot with a joyful expression. From the look on their faces, one could tell they were really happy.

And what came from that was the evidence that Inahon was a delicious food, better yet, it came to the children in the form of a real experience.

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“Ok, now that you understand, let's get to work. We'll reap all the ears growing around here for today and will take them back to the village.”

He said as he showed them how to harvest the Inahon with the scythe for wheat harvesting that he had asked Liscia to prepare beforehand.

Reached for the middle part between the root and the ear of the Inahon, he grabbed several plants and cut them, then he repeated the process several times in order for the children to properly learn. *I'm lucky that the experience I had helping at my grandmother's house in that small town where she lived was useful*, he thought while remembering.

“Ehhh, do we have to reap all those Inahon!?”

“That’s impossible, Yamato-niichan! “

The children raised complaints at those instructions.

This was a natural response, after all, the natural paddy field was quite extensive. Who knew how many days it would take for these small children to finish harvesting the whole field with their tiny hands.

“Did you already forget this morning’s promise? Those who properly do this job will have more food to eat.”

“Uhm... I’ll do my best! ”

“I’ll give my best too! ”

“Me too! “

As they remembered the meal they recently had, the children got suddenly motivated. And without wasting time, they began their Inahon harvesting soon after hearing those directions.

There were plenty of small sickles for wheat harvesting in the village. Yamato decided to grind off some of the sharpness with a sharpening stone. This way it would be safer for small children, and with this much sharpness, they still could do the Inahon harvesting even if they had to spend a little more time.

“Don’t push yourself too hard, we will continue tomorrow with the parts that weren’t finished. Also, be sure to take breaks while working.”

Rice harvesting actually consumed more energy than what most people imagined. It would also be a problem if they got too tired and ended up injuring themselves. Therefore, he instructed them to keep the working at a moderate pace and take breaks in between.

After giving away the instructions for the Inahon harvesting, he decided to move to the next point of action.

“You are good at drawing/writing, right? ”

“Ye-yes, that is the only thing I’m good at.”

After hearing their strong points, the group of children was divided before starting. Standing before him was a little girl with a frail body who had said she was good at drawing. Since her parents were originally painting craftsman, she was dexterous with her hands.

Yet, since paper was a luxury good, she said she had been drawing images and letters on the ground or on wooden boards, with charcoal and stones.

"Then, use this "notebook" to record the progress of the Inahon collection. The reason was what I explained earlier"

"Y-yes, I understand, Yamato-san... Wow, it is really easy to write in this! So, such thing existed out in the world! "

The girl said so, impressed by the notebook and pencil.

He handed those items in order for her to record the progress, they were items he had in the backpack in case he needed to write something or make a sketch. The reason for keeping a record was in order to leave the technique for the village's future generations.

In the near future, the wheat fields in Urd Village would be replaced for paddy fields. Although that was a story for later, for this to work, it was necessary to accurately record the state of the paddy field and the process of harvesting.

"This is amazing... I can draw the lines beautifully... "

"Just make sure to properly get the gist of the process."

"Ok! "

Seemingly understanding the reason for describing the process, she started. Her body was small and not really fit to perform heavy work, but she was a smart child. She was properly writing all the important points. So, he decided it was fine to leave her alone for now.

After finished giving the girl instructions, he went to where the rest of the children were.

"Sorry to keep you waiting. Now I'll tell you what your job will be."

These were the boys and girls he had chosen based on intuition.

"Yamato-niichan, what are we going to do? "

"No matter what it is, we'll work hard! "

These were older children with a sharp gaze. Everyone was eager to get work assigned to them already. The children with a good fighting spirit were the ones chosen.

“Yamato-sama... you need me too?”

“Yeah, that’s right.”

Among these children was Liscia, the chief’s granddaughter. This was the perfect job for her.

“I’ll have you go “hunting for beasts” with me. This will be the most important and dangerous job.”

“Uhm, hunt!?”

“But we cannot use they bow like Liscia-neechan.”

“But Yamato-sama, that is dangerous!”

Everyone was surprised at that sudden statement.

The children knew about how dangerous the beasts in the forest could be. Even the adults in the village had trouble hunting the Big Rabbits, let alone other more dangerous beasts.

That was the reason why most of the children never tried to set foot inside the forest before. Despite it being a forest with many blessings to give.

“Yeah... it really is impossible.”

In fact, the children were even afraid of their current surroundings.

But because they heard the story about Yamato defeating the Big Rabbits from Liscia, they were still enduring, since he was together with them.

Even the leader-like boy Guts was scared.

“Ok, I will teach you a way so that even you children, will be able to defeat a Big Rabbit...”

Then began the guiding session on how to defeat a Big Rabbit, with a practical example.

Chapter 8

Secret weapon of the hunt

The first practical lesson against the Big Rabbits was over.

“Wow, this is amazing! ”

“We really did manage to defeat a Big Rabbit with us alone! ”

The excited pair of a boy and a girl were exclaiming excitedly after killing the Big Rabbit that was laying on the ground in front of them. They were of part of the hunter children group (although they were still candidates). These children never truly dreamed of being able to defeat one with only their own power.

The children hunted this dangerous beast with a borrowed “bow”.

“Yamato-sama, that bow... that weapon called crossbow is really amazing.”

The hunter girl Liscia was surprised by the tremendous power of the crossbow, easy enough even for children to use.

In truth... the way of teaching them to hunt the Big Rabbits was with the aid of the crossbow that Yamato had brought from Japan.

To think that something I made solely as a hobby would be of help in this other world...

This crossbow was something that he had inside of his mountaineering backpack. It was self-hand crafted, and it could be carried compactedly by disassembling it.

Yamato was always interested in medieval weapons from various countries all over the world.

And among them, crossbows were something he was especially fond of, so he tried to replicate making one many times, by trial and error.

What came from those efforts was this piece, it could be said to be the final result after consulting several sources, like books and the internet.

Without trying to use any synthetic material, he tried to make this crossbow only

using old materials, like wood and metal, while trying to stick with as much medieval-like materials as possible.

“It truly is amazing, Yamato-sama... there are some old crossbows in the village, but none of them have nearly the same power as this one. And it’s even difficult for adults to draw it when they choose to use it.”

“Oh, I guess that was to be expected.”

After defeating another Big Rabbit, Liscia was further impressed.

Probably since she was a hunter who used a bow, she was aware of the outstanding performance of this crossbow.

Although the power of the crossbow is indeed amazing, it is not without drawbacks. This seems to be the reason it has not spread and developed in this different world.

Unlike a bow that required the strength to draw it, a crossbow could be easily shot with by anyone by a simple pull of a trigger. However, its shortcomings were many. First of all, the crossbow couldn’t fire continuously, it also took strength and time to wind up, and its manufacturing process was complicated. Truly many shortcomings.

Therefore, even in the history of the Earth, it was soon replaced by other weapons and quietly disappeared.

The materials I used to make it were simple, but I’m confident about this crossbow that uses an ergonomic design and the latest techniques...

But this was a special-made crossbow. Since it solved many of those shortcoming that it had since the old times, even children could use it.

“Yeah! I defeated another Big Rabbit! Yamato-niichan!”

“Don’t let your guard down. Quickly load the next bolt.”

Just as the village children took aim and pulled the trigger as if it were a toy water gun, the dreadful crossbow was fired, and one Big Rabbit was defeated after the last one. Truly a surreal sight to behold.

Although its principle was simple, its astounding destructive power was obvious to see.

Even a Big Rabbit, which had a hard pelt, was being killed by a single blow. Depending

on the type of bolt, it could even penetrate a metal plate.
It was easy to aim with it, and even for someone only used to play at the shooting stalls at a festival, it was possible to land a hit.

Really, it seems I made a terrible weapon after all...

While it was true that he had made it by himself, he still felt deeply amazed while watching in action what he had built.

This was the first actual fight of this crossbow, after all since it was illegal to use it in my Japan, he never really got the chance to actually use it for its intended purpose. At most, what he did was only crafting it and assembling it in the mountains to test it. Never seeing it as more than a hobby.

“With this crossbow, it will be easier to secure food and furs, Yamato-sama! ”

“Yeah, that’s right...”

Next to him, Liscia seemed to be pleased showing a shine in her eyes.

With the adults gone from the village, and after taking many risks by herself, she believed that the hunting efficiency would greatly improve from now on.

But the problem is, there’s only one crossbow. Its materials are only wood, metal and string. I’m sure that if I tell them the principles and methods, they can probably produce them in bulk in this world...

It was not too difficult to make a crossbow when you knew its principles. After all, even in the B.C. era, they were already present in continental Asia.

But the one he made used the “lever principle” in order to increase its shooting performance. The metal part was complicated to make.

So the success of its mass production plan depended on the skills and technology of the blacksmiths of this world.

“Now that I think of it Liscia, is there a blacksmith in Urd village? ”

He turned next to him to ask Liscia.

There were only old people and children in the village, but he had the hope that maybe among them there might be a blacksmith. After all, a village of this size should have one.

“The blacksmith lives in the outskirts of the village.”

“Oh, is that so? Do you think he could craft a copy of the crossbow? ”

“Yes, I think that might be possible... After all, he is an elder belonging to the Mountain Clan.”

“Mountain clan... you say.”

The girl Liscia then continued to explain.

The families of the ‘Mountain Clan’ were born with dexterous hands, and they were loved by the God of iron and fire. Many of them lived all across the continent and were excellent smiths and miners.

“Well, I can’t wait to meet him.”

“But he is a stubborn person, and he only receives jobs if they match with his unique ‘sense of values’...”

Liscia’s last words were a little hard to understand. Thinking there might be some circumstances behind that, he questioned what “sense of values” was referring to.

For now, he decided to focus on the Inahon harvesting and Big Rabbit hunting, and in a couple days after this was finished he would try and pay a visit to the Mountain Clan’s smith.

“Ok. Pass the crossbow to the next person. We’ll aim for the next Big Rabbit group. You all need to get used to it. You have to have a resolute mind too.”

He continued to instruct the children who were excited about the destructive power and simplicity of use of the crossbow. With it being a weapon that anybody could easily use, one had to pay close attention to how they handled it.

“Like “Shin Gi Tai”, right?! Yamato-niichan! ”

“Shin gi tai! ”

“Yeah, that’s right. First you train your mind, then your skills and finally your body.”

Any powerful tool had the potential to become a dangerous, destructive weapon depending on the person using it.

‘Mind, skill and body’ (Shin Gi Tai)... He decided to train the village children with an attitude based on the teachings of this Japanese martial arts.

Luckily for him, the people from Urd were wonderful, with a pure heart and straight nature.

That was obvious from the fact that even though they were on the verge of starvation, they gave those precious tree nuts to a traveler.

But even so, whether it's because they are living in the mountains and are a village of hunters, or because it's something inherited by the people of Urd. These children are adapting too fast to the use of the crossbow...

He didn't say out loud, but deep inside his heart he felt very surprised.

Today being the first day, he only intended it to be a simple test in using the crossbow. Even if Big Rabbits did actually come out, he planned on taking them all on with his survival knife.

"Yeah, I also took one down!"

"Not fair! I'll shoot the next one!"

However, the village children were making it look very easy to draw the cord and knock a bolt, turning it into something like a light practice.

Their sense of distance and space awareness ability was excellent in the first place. Otherwise, kids the age of elementary school students wouldn't be able to hunt this easily.

He felt slightly frightened to see the children being all happy like this.

Whew... I wonder if this is what being a teacher feels like.

Originally, not very good with children, he always tried to avoid them back in Japan. But he now felt elated by watching them grow, learning and absorbing knowledge and skills like a sponge.

Perhaps if being a professor gives such a feeling, it surely is a worthwhile profession, he thought.

"Hey, over there! Don't be careless!"

""Yes, Yamato-niichan! ""

They all give their honest reply at the same time.

While wearing a bitter smile, he then continued to guide them as they hunted more

Big Rabbits.

Chapter 9

A familiar enemy in the forest

Today they were also entering the forest.
They've been doing this several times ever since the first day.

“Yamato-niichan, look! Today we harvested more Inahon than we did yesterday!”

The Inahon harvesting at the natural paddy fields near the forest was also progressing smoothly.

Being similar to rice, Inahon was a precious grain, rich in carbohydrates. With most of their food taken away by the Lord, this became a valuable resource for Urd village, which was suffering to obtain enough food to eat.

“Looks like the harvesting has become twice as efficient comparing it to the first day. You guys really did great in giving your best.”

“”Yes!””

“Oh, there’s also twice as much as that time already loaded in the hand cart. That’s good.”

“I see, it’s great, isn’t it? We are awesome!”

“Me too! I worked really hard!”

Seeing them completing the harvesting for the day, he went ahead and praised the hard-working children. However, this was not empty flattery, he knew they really were trying hard.

He understood it since he had experienced it before and knew harvesting rice really was an exhausting job. Bending your back for long periods of time, working in the paddy fields while your feet were covered in dirt and mud.

Grabbing a bundle of stems and then cutting them with a sickle. Collecting them, then placing them on the hand cart, then returning and repeating the same task over and over again. This was not a job requiring strength or special skills, it was simply a game of perseverance and endurance.

"Good, at this pace, the Inahon harvesting will be completely finished in just a few more days."

"I'm sure we'll finish it tomorrow, Yamato-niichan!"

"No need to hurry. But remember to keep the cart and tools clean. I'll go take a look over there."

After finishing giving instructions to the inahon harvesting group, he then headed towards the beast hunting group.

"You seem more used now to dismantling the Big Rabbits."

"Liscia-neechn's way of teaching is very easy to follow! "

"Oh, but Yamato-niichan's way is easy too."

These children were also progressing smoothly.

He, together with Liscia, had been accompanying them in the Big Rabbit hunting for these past few days. Unlike the Inahon harvesting group, these children were risking their lives, since their opponents were wild beasts.

He was together with them in order to protect them, and he planned on keep doing it at least until the mass production of the crossbows was done and everyone was accustomed to use them.

"Tomorrow we will switch the harvesting and hunting teams. So that everyone is able to properly do both jobs."

"Ehh, but I wanted to stay in the hunting group... "

"I'm not sure if I can allow that. You need to be able to do both jobs. That reminds me, there were some interesting-looking insects in the paddy fields."

"Oh, insects! Ok, I guess I'll try my best harvesting the Inahon tomorrow!"

Slowly, he was getting used to dealing with small children, even if just a little.

He remembered what Liscia told him and, while using their interests as bait, he managed to make them properly work. Some children were attracted by the insects, while others preferred to collect beautiful pebbles or flowers.

"Yamato-sama, isn't it bad to start learning another job since they are already trying to become hunters? "

Recently, Liscia has been taken over the leading role with the hunting group. While wearing a troubled face, she came over to ask him. She was the only proper hunter, a

precious existence in Urd village, where the rest of the population was comprised of only children and old people.

And adding to that, by being the granddaughter of the village chief, she had a certain degree of education. Therefore, she obviously wondered about this “shifts system”, deeming it inefficient.

“It certainly is more efficient to have them to focus on mastering one job. But I want them to grow evenly. Taking into consideration the future.”

“I see... As expected of Yamato-sama! ”

After thinking for a moment, she was convinced by that explanation.

Certainly, there were some problems, like their body's size or their character's compatibility with the job.

Agriculture was more suited for those who worked diligently, and hunting for those more fearless to the unknown.

[Adults' decisions crush children's possibilities. Therefore, allow me to let you challenge everything, Yamato.]

Those were the words he once heard from his parents when he was young, and he decided to use that very same practice here in Urd.

While being young, one should not care about gender nor age, and should challenge everything that lies in front. While doing this, an unexpected talent could bloom, so he thought following the arbitrary decisions of the adults was useless.

Thanks to that, I was forced to join them in exploring unknown jungles and sacred mountains, I really thought I was going to die back then...

He always suspected his self-proclaimed adventurer parents had a few screws loose. And he smiled bitterly while remembering those old times.

“Ok, it is about time to return to the village! Let's finish the rest tomorrow.”

After hearing his command, the children of the two teams started arriving in order to go back to the village.

The Inahon was carried back in a borrowed cart. After this, it was spread and left to dry in the village with the help of the old people.

Thankfully, after the village chief asked them in his stead, they actively agreed to

cooperate. They also lent them whatever tools and places in the village they needed. Obviously, the meat and Inahon grains were also divided with the elderly people who were staying in the village.

“No matter how you look at it, the amount of Big Rabbit we hunted today was quite large, Yamato-sama.”

“Oh, that’s right. We have to get ready to preserve them after we’re back at the village.”

While looking at the cart carrying the Big Rabbits, Liscia was impressed by the amount.

The tightly packed already-bled meat, along with the beasts’ internal organs was really a sight to behold. The amount of Big Rabbit meat they hunted in these past few days had more than doubled comparing it to the first day.

Twenty, that was the amount that Yamato, together with Liscia and the children, hunted down today.

“Alright, after finishing loading the cart and doing a quick roll-call to make sure everyone is present, we’ll return to the village.”

These natural paddy fields by the forest near the village were relatively safe. But one could never be careless, so whenever they had to move somewhere, they all acted together.

“Yamato-niichan, we need help! ”

It happened in the evening, right as they were about to return to the village. A voice calling for help came from the very back of the line.

While hurriedly sprinting, Yamato headed towards the back of their column.

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“Hey, What’s wrong!?”

“Yamato-niichan! A huge animal came out! ”

“A huge animal you say? ”

The boy pointed towards the back, where the figure of a large beast could be seen. Snorts came from its rough, flat nose, and was seemingly preparing to charge towards the row of children.

“Liscia-san, what is that? ”

“Th-that’s a Wild Boar... no way... in a place like this... ”

According to her experience as a hunter, she explained that the Wild Boar was one of the type of beasts that inhabited the forest, and a quite dangerous one at that. It usually lived a bit deeper into the forest, and it was very rare for one to appear in such a shallow place.

I guess that is this world's version of a wild boar... nevertheless, it is quite big.

It was like a way bigger version of the wild boars he met while exploring the mountainous areas of Japan. Its appearance was remarkable similar, aside from the huge fang-like tusks that grew from its mouth.

“Everyone, stand back... I will deal with it... ”

Leaving Liscia to take care of the children, he went ahead to face the Wild Boar. His priority was to prevent this massive boar from charging into the unprotected children. By throwing some small rocks at its feet, he managed to provoke it, making it turn towards him.

“Yamato-sama, it’s dangerous! ”

“Yamato-niichan! ”

Liscia and the children, who were falling back, started to let out voices of worry. But he was not being reckless, he already had a plan. He also needed to know the extent of his ‘power’, in order to be prepared for anything that might happen in the future.

“Nii-chan, watch out! ”

“Yamato-sama! ”

Along with an ear-tearing squeal, the Wild Boar started rushing towards him. The moisty dirt beneath its hooves was send flying due to its amazing momentum.

That rushing power is also quite considerable...

A wild boar’s greatest weapon was its charge. Attacking with its sharp tusks, aided by

its low center of gravity, it could reach a speed of some tens of kilometers per hour. If he was to get hit with its full force, it would shred the flesh of his feet and break his bones. Wild boars were strong animals, and even back on Earth, repelling one was a difficult task depending on its size.

But those movements are plain! And if it's the "current me", you are simply slow!

As the Wild Boar charged with its incredible momentum, he waited until the last moment to avoid it.

It was in one fluid movement, like that of a bullfighter, but it presented no difficulty for Yamato, with his heightened concentration.

“Haa!! ”

At the same moment he avoided it, he took the survival knife from his waist and made a clean swing.

The aim was a vital point in the Wild Boar, its throat. No matter how tough an animal could be, it couldn't live for long if it couldn't breathe.

“Oh! Awesome!! ”

“Yamato-niichan! ”

“Yamato-sama! ”

As the knife was swung, it slit the boar's throat, and soon after cheers came from the group.

Unable to breath, the Wild Boar continued rampaging for some more time.

But after a few minutes, it fell to the ground, dying while convulsing. *I guess it was the same in this world after all, no matter how large a beast is, if it cannot breathe it will eventually die*, he said in his mind.

“Yamato-sama, are you hurt!? ”

“Nii-chan! You ok?! ”

All the children and Liscia, who had cleared the surrounding area, started running towards him after hearing him say everything was ok now.

“I'm ok. Let's start bleeding this Wild Boar and bring it back to the village.”

“Ok, got it! ”

The children quickly obeyed those instructions. Taking some of the tools that were already piled up in the cart, they quickly began the bleeding process. Obviously, with Yamato being the only adult around, he also helped in the process.

Although it was a sudden incident, they seem to be doing ok... well, I also had fun.

It even surprised him, watching the Wild Boar's desperate charge.

Behind that massive body and rushing speed, he couldn't even fathom how destructive it could have been if it was to hit him. It was enough power to collapse one of the village's ramshackle houses.

But he managed to cut its throat from its blind spot the moment it tried to hit him with its sharp tusks. *I can't imagine myself doing the same thing I just did back in japan, be it the concentration or the reaction speed and movement*, he thought.

I wonder if my physical ability is improving along with my senses. That would be quite welcomed...

When he was in Japan, he never believed in the power of the supernatural, or in those claiming to possess special abilities.

He believed everything had a reason, a logical explanation for the occurrences that happened, even if he didn't know it at the time. But after coming to this different world, that idea was slowly changing.

In this unknown world, he was being blessed by this strange "power".

In any case, being conceited is forbidden... specially in this remote village with nothing but old people and children...

"Yamato-niichan really is super strong!"

"Yeah, he killed it in a single slash!"

"Could he be even stronger than the Hero-King from Urd's stories!?"

"That might be a little... actually he might be!"

All the children were very excited.

After the boar finished bleeding, with the help of everyone, they tied a rope to it and pulled it to the cart. Carrying it was out of the question, with such a big body, and Yamato being the only adult, it was pretty much an impossible task. But regardless,

everyone was giving cries of joy, since they were able to secure more valuable food today.

"This Wild Boar is big, but its movements were simple. In the future, you'll have to defeat it by using the crossbow, so be prepared."

"Ok, got it!"

"I need to give my best and become strong like Yamato-niichan."

Apparently, those words were somewhat exciting for the children. The very same children that moments ago were tired were now bullish and vigorous.

Being young made them pure, but also strong. Since they now knew the Wild Boar could be beaten by human hands, they might have confidence in the future, even while facing a huge beast like this.

"Ok, time to return to the village."

It was evening when they finally decided to return to the village, with an unexpected extra cargo of meat from the Wild Boar.

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"Ok, let's split into the Inahon-cleaning team and the beast-dismantling team."

They were safely back in Urd village.

After returning, the first thing to do was to begin the processing the food they gathered from the forest.

"Allow us to be of help too, Yamato-dono."

"Thanks, that would be great."

The elderly people, who were "house-sitting", began to gather when they saw them returning. Despite being old, their experience was abundant, so their skills were appreciated.

Therefore, children and elderly cooperated together.

A village with nothing but children and old people, huh?...

At first glance, this looked just like a normal village.

But all the working adults were taken away by the Lord, and now only children and old people remained in Urd.

With their food and livestock also taken, the remaining stockpiles were few, and the destruction of this ethnic group was anything but certain.

I suppose they couldn't run away, even if they wanted to...

Leaving this village was also impossible.

Because in the only road to the neighboring big town, savage bandits had settled, blocking the traffic.

If I hadn't come a few days ago, I wonder how many more days could have they lasted?

That very first day when he came to Urd, the village was in quite a dire state regarding food. From what he heard, some people had only drunk water since they had nothing to eat.

So as he was thinking back, he came to the conclusion that the village was probably on the edge of collapse.

Coming to this different world... was I destined to come to this village? Nah, let's not think about it...

He had no idea of what the cause of his sudden transportation was. So, he just smiled lightly in his mind as he denied believing in this was a product of fate.

To him, [Helping the village of Urd] was not a strange act of fate, it was a choice he made out of his own free will.

“Liscia, when you have a little of time, could you please guide me to the house of that Mountain Clan Person?”

“Ok, Yamato-sama. But they are known to be stubborn, so I’m not sure if he will cooperate...”

“I’ll worry about that when the time comes.”

In this way, it was decided to pay a visit to the rumored Mountain Clan Person’s smith workshop.

Chapter 10

The blacksmith's workshop

Guided by Liscia, they both went towards the outskirts of the village, to the house of the blacksmith.

“Is this the house of the Mountain Clan person?”

“Yes, Yamato-sama. Right next to it is the workshop.”

The house of the Mountain Clan Person was in the outer edge of the village. The building was a rustic-styled house with a workshop integrated, where the smell of hot iron could be sensed.

“The entrance seems quite small, for a house this big.”

“The Mountain Clan People are of small stature, even if they are adults.”

Liscia explained.

It should probably be correct to assume they were like those small, sturdy people that came out in many fantasy stories. With that being the case, using a big enough entrance for normal humans would be pretty much useless.

“Gaton-san, it’s Liscia. I’m coming in.”

Liscia said that he had been working in this workshop ever since she was a small child, and as the village chief’s granddaughter, she knew him ever since.

And without even knocking, she went ahead and entered after calling out to him. Although, it appeared there was no custom of knocking in this world, in the first place.

“It’s open, let yourself in.”

The workshop owner’s name was Gaton.

From deep inside the workshop, an unfriendly reply to Liscia’s call could be heard. Yamato felt slightly relieved that the person he was looking for was not out.

Leading the way, Liscia guided him to the back of the workshop. It was dim-lit as they

entered, but as they proceeded further inside, a hot fire illuminated the room.

“Oh my... this is amazing.”

His thoughts unintentionally leaked as he watched the sight of the workshop. Unlike the plain and simple exterior of the building, the inside of the workshop was extremely well equipped.

Many well maintained and visible used tools, along with a furnace, bellows, an anvil and many other tools and equipment were in sight. Although this was a different world, being in this workshop, with so many tools similar to those of Earth gave a nostalgic feeling.()

“I see, so the shape of the tools is almost the same... this is interesting...”

He felt a bit moved. With the main function in mind, developing tools might follow the same evolutionary path in any world so their shape ended up being similar.

“Liscia jou-chan. That guy there, who is he? And what's with that getup?”

While Yamato was feeling fascinated by the interior of the workshop, with his eyes dancing all over the place, the Mountain Clan old man asked Liscia while feeling suspicious of him.

“This person is a traveler, Yamato-sama. He's been staying in the village since a few days.”

“A ‘Lost one’, huh? What a strange outfit. Is that a new fashion in the capital nowadays?”

As he heard Gaton's words, Yamato turned his gaze towards his own appearance. Looking at it closely, his was a strange outfit, not very fitting for this different world.

What he was wearing right now were some casual outdoor Japanese-made clothes. They were Gore-Tex high performance products that one could buy anywhere, normally used while camping or climbing since they were waterproof, but they had a slight glossy look.

And they were clearly different from the clothes from the villagers, knitted from hemp and wool.()

“A ‘Lost one’...Well, something like that. By the way, Gaton-san. I've come to ask if you

could do me a favor.”

“Hmph, for someone coming for the first time, you sure are a pushy guy, Yamato.”

Despite choosing his words, to be as polite as possible, Gaton was obviously still wary of myself.

I guess with this appearance, this was to be expected...

The truth was, Yamato was just some dubious person with strange clothes he was meeting for the first time. Thus, if the village chief’s granddaughter had not accompanied him, Gaton would have turned him away immediately.

Gaton was famous in the village due to his stubborn personality.

He had been refusing more and more of the village requests after the adults of the village were taken away, that was what Liscia had said to him before coming here. According to her, he now only received the minimum number of requests for everyday necessities.

“I was told you could make ‘anything’ if it involved metal.”

“Hmph! Watch out whom you’re speaking to, young man! The whole Mountain Clan People can... No, myself! there is not a single thing that I cannot make! “

Gaton responded splendidly with a red face at those taunting words. *I might have made him a little angry though*, he thought.

He's got a lot of self-esteem... truly a Grand Master Blacksmith through and through.

According to Liscia, Gaton was awarded with the title “Grand Master Blacksmith”, which only three people in the continent possessed.

In other words, he was the owner of tremendous skill among all the blacksmiths, enough to earn a place among the top three. He was a stubborn person who was not really interested in honor nor money.

“Then, I’m sure you can make “this” right? “

Taking out the crossbow along with a single bolt from the cloth bag, Yamato placed them on top of the table. It was a compound crossbow, and his personal masterpiece brought from Earth.

After that, he asked if he could reproduce it. Wondering if the Mountain Clan People

were skillful enough to recreate this crossbow.

"This is... the crossbow and the bolt are quite bizarre... hmm, this looks like a sort of mechanical device..."

To his surprise, Gaton guessed how the crossbow worked quite quickly.

While speaking to Liscia, Yamato had discovered that the crossbows had not developed that much in this world. Therefore, the mechanism they used was a primitive and hard to use one.

That was the reason why no one in the village could understand how his crossbow worked at first. But after he explained to them and they tried to actually use it, they finally did.

But Gaton instantly saw through the crossbow mechanism, which should be so unusual in this world.

As expected of the Mountain Clan People... No, it might be that Gaton is really amazing.

Yamato felt astonished by that fact. By the amazingness of this person called Gaton, who guessed correctly on this weapon from a different civilization.

However, he was somewhat expecting this to be the case the moment he saw the tools Gaton used in this workshop. He had the hope that if it was this old man, he would be able to.

"But no matter how much I tell you, seeing is believing. I'll launch a bolt for you to watch."

After asking Gaton to prepare a metal plate he deemed unnecessary, he had him place it hanging against a pillar, then he hurriedly came to see the mechanism of the crossbow in action.

"So it really was a device to pull back the bowstring... but why it has to have such a complex metal shape... ohh, so that's why! A mechanism so that even powerless people can pull back the string... and what's more, even faster and further than usual..."

Looking at Yamato's movements as he prepared to fire, Gaton guessed the principles behind the crossbow, one after another.

All of his guesses were spot on.

His instant understanding of the mechanism using the principle of lever, and the ergonomics of this crossbow was truly frightening.

Oh... It really was worth my time coming here

He finished his preparations while thinking how reliable this Mountain Clan Person seemed, whose gaze was placed at the crossbow. After quickly checking the surroundings, he turned towards the target, the metal plate hanging on the pillar.

“Hey, wait a moment Yamato! With a metal plate of that thickness, the arrow will bounce off, it will be dangerous!”

“It’s fine. Just take a look! “

Without minding Gaton’s words, the trigger of the crossbow was pulled.

The tension of the strongly lever-principle drawn crossbow was released at once. And the fired bolt flew at a terrifying speed.

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An intense metallic sound that made you want to close your ears echoed in the workshop. It was the result of a crossbow bolt, flying at hundreds of kilometers per hour, coming in contact with a tough metal plate.

“Oh, what is this!?”

The Mountain Clan craftsman Gaton gave an excited voice while looking at the sight before him. This old blacksmith’s interest had risen after hearing such a sound.

“No way, for such a small bow to penetrate this metal plate used for armors... and it even stuck to the pillar behind it.”

With the crossbow test finishing successfully, the crossbow bolt splendidly penetrated the metal plate without fail.

“The arrow penetrated the metal plate so easily.”

At this unbelievable sight for them, Gaton and Liscia were astonished, while their eyes were wide open. They never imagined that this small weapon had that much power.

“I want you to mass produce this crossbow, to be used to protect the village.”

Yamato honestly told him the purpose of his visit.

He wanted to help the children, those children exposed to the wild beasts in the forest and the poverty they were currently experiencing, and help them become independent. So, without trying to bargain, he told him everything honestly.

“From what I can see, the materials used are iron and timber, right? Since those materials are readily available, I believe mass producing it is possible.”

The blacksmith Gaton took the crossbow handed over to him, and said, while checking the parts. He said that even the complex mechanical parts were no problem for his skilled hands.

“But what about ‘compensation’? What will you... what will Yamato be paying in return?”

Gaton started to negotiate.

Is this what Liscia meant by him not interested in honor and money or...

The Mountain Clan People were a stubborn craftsmen race not interested in money, jewels or honor.

Even if nobles or kings asked them to work for them by using their power, they were not swayed at all.

“A Mountain Clan person always asks for compensation.”

As the phrase meant, they always requested some kind of compensation from their clients. It was not on the monetary or social meaning, it was meant to test the other party's resolution, in order to accept or decline their work.

Are you willing to pay an equal price?... is that what he means...

From this point onwards, it was the start of the negotiations.

He had to offer suitable items, items appropriate for the Mountain Clan People. This was to protect the village, and the people's lives.

“I will offer this ‘knife’ as compensation.”

With that as his reason, he pulled out his favorite survival knife from his waist. Piercing the wooden table, he presented it in front of Gaton. All in order to express that this was his own decision.

“Oh! This... is a really shinny knife...”

Gaton’s expression changed greatly after seeing a knife from a metal which he had seen for the first time.

He was many times more excited than when examining the crossbow. A metal unknown to the Mountain Clan People surely was a treasure that surpassed anything.

“Yamato-sama, you shouldn’t! That is Yamato-sama’s treasured knife.”

Next to them, Liscia gasped, then raised her voice.

She knew this survival knife was Yamato’s main weapon, and that he cherished it after it had helped him survive in this world. She was the only person he had told this was a memento from his deceased parents.

It was also the very same knife that helped him kill the Big Rabbits and the Wild Boar. She was clever to notice that his fighting strength would be greatly reduced by letting go of this.

“Don’t worry about it. If this knife is all that costs for producing several crossbows, the probability that everyone in the village will survive will rise.”

Objectively, this was a bad trade. This survival knife was certainly valuable to part with.

It was a present given to him by his self-proclaimed adventurer parents. It combined the latest forging technology with Japanese swordsmithing techniques, it was the strongest knife made by a famous Japanese Swordsmith. And now that he was transported to a different world, the chance of getting another one was zero.

However, this was a short weapon, only usable for close combat. A dedicated weapon that only one person in the village could wield and master.

Compared to that, it was already proven that the crossbows could be used by children

if they trained. So, in the end he decided on the mass production and training, in order for it to be useful for the future of this village.

"Hey, Yamato... do you know the raw materials and the process to make this knife?"
"Sorry, while I'm interested in smithing, it is not my specialty. But I heard that its crafter used a combination of metals, folding it into many layers."

Gaton continued to question him, while his eyes were glued to the knife.

"Surely, you're not referring to these ripples... but to do that, what an amazing skill..."

"There are also stubborn swordsmiths like you back in my country. This is a masterpiece from one of those."

"I see... I would love to meet that person at least once."

"Sorry, but that might be impossible."

"I see..."

He answered Gaton's questions to the best of his understanding, while he continued to look at the knife, almost as if licking it.

In reality, he actually knew of the raw materials used, but it was a modern allow, forged from the apex of state-of-the-art metallurgic science. It was a material that could never be refined with this world's level of civilization. That was why he was a little vague on his answer.

"I'll undertake the manufacturing of this crossbow."

"Gaton-san! Thank you so much!"

Liscia gave a joyful voice at the reply from this stubborn person. Looking at the exchanges so far, she probably had already given up hope.

"But well, there are some conditions..."

Gaton turned toward me and said while staring straight into my eyes.

"Conditions?"

"Let my two grandchildren live with you in the village."

"Your grandchildren... with us..."

Besides Gaton, there were apparently two Mountain Clan children who were helping him with this workshop. He said they were currently doing housework.

“Oh, alright. But I have to tell you I’m a strict person.”

“I raised them, so they are not that weak. We’ll go together tomorrow to the village chief’s house with a prototype.”

“You’ll have the crossbow prototype completed by tomorrow? “

Those last words were an unexpected statement.

He said he could craft and complete the assembling of such a complex parts in just one day.

“Hmph, who do you think I am? Now, you’re being an eyesore. Leave already so I can begin to work.”

Gaton eyes were dead serious, meaning he wasn’t joking at all. *Tomorrow would be for sure a day to look forwards to*, Yamato thought.

“I’ll be eagerly waiting.”

And thus, the mass production of the crossbow began.

Parting from his favorite survival knife was a bit painful.

However, with this they could probably avoid a food shortage in the future.

Chapter 11

Mass-produced type

The next day, the old craftsman Gaton from the Mountain Clan People came to visit Yamato.

“You really had it finished in one night.”

“Of course, different from the humans, the Mountain Clan people doesn’t tell a lie.”

While replying in a sarcastic voice, Gaton began explaining about the replicated crossbow.

“I made it one size smaller than the one you lend me. After all, it’s the brats the ones who are going to use it, right? ”

“Oh, that’s right. That indeed would be better.”

Aside from skilled, Gaton was also smart. He really understood the purpose of Yamato’s request, changed it, customized it and made the prototype.

“What about the fire power? ”

“Same as yesterday’s, I tried it and it will still penetrate the metal plate.”

“If that’s the case, then there’s no problem.”

Gaton really paid attention to details, decreasing its size so that it would be easily usable by the village’s children. The mechanical structure was pretty much the same as the one on the crossbow Yamato had brought from Japan. Gaton also said that the power had hardly dropped too.

For now, I should try shooting with it, Yamato thought. For this shooting test, all the children gathered at the village’s square.

“Alright, shoot it when you’re ready.”

“Ok, Yamato-niichan! ”

Among the children, a small boy with a petite build was picked to use it. If he

succeeded, it would mean that every child in the village could use it.

“Ohh, I don’t need to use more strength than with the other one.”

“Good, then aim at the target and shoot as I taught you before.”

“Yes!... ... Ok!”

The small boy was able to successfully draw the bowstring all by himself. He then took a stance and pulled the trigger. The arrow then flew, fired from the prototype crossbow with tremendous speed.

“Wow, amazing! ”

“It even made a hole! ”

After splendidly penetrating the metal plate, cheers resounded from the gathered children as they watched.

“The power really remains almost the same. This would be enough for beasts like the Big Rabbit and the Wild Boar.”

“I already told you that, didn’t I?”

“Well, yeah, but I still had my doubts.”

Although he spoke with a bashing tone, Yamato really admired Gaton.

Being able to reproduce a crossbow he had confidently made by combining different elements of modern science in just one night, he had no choice but to take his hat off to him.

Although the size was reduced, it still retained most of its power, so it could be used to hunt the beasts in the forest.

The wild beast’s fur and fat layers were thicker and sturdier than they seemed. However, this prototype crossbow had enough power to penetrate them easily, and it was also suitable for mass production.

“Even so, reloading it seems easier to do with this one.”

“Ah, I used a little trick there, you see.”

“A trick? ”

It was a really surprising sight to see all the children trying and testing the prototype.

Crossbows were powerful weapons from the old ages on earth. With their excellent

penetrating power far surpassing ordinary bows, and the advantage of not needing to be a skillful archer in order to properly use them. Truly a weapon that could be used with just a little of training.

[Pull the string, set the bolt, take aim, and pull the trigger]

With just this, one could even kill a fully plate armored knight. However, a crossbow had a drawback.

[Pulling back the string is a hard work, and time consuming] This was its main disadvantage. To solve this, the use of pulleys and the lever principle developed throughout the history of earth was needed, turning it into a complex system.

But that disadvantage was settled by this old craftsman from the Mountain Clan People. This prototype could be wound up in a short time even by the weak children, and its destructive power was sufficient.

To think that all the work I did, all those hours of work, days and nights of trying and failing were overtaken in just a single night.

He couldn't help but to feel astonished.

"It amazes me that you're feeling surprised. All I did was modifying the gear parts and adding a double 'lever' principle."

At Gaton's happy explanation, he turned my gaze towards the prototype crossbow. *Oh, I see.* The parts with the gears, which were the key component of the lever principle were slightly different from the ones on the original crossbow that he gave him.

What is that gear? They are interlocked in opposite directions.

At a glance, one could somewhat understand the principle.

However, processing the metal to make a gear was a delicate process and couldn't be rushed. There was not a blacksmith on Earth who could reproduce it like he did.

Indeed, "Loved by the Gods of Iron and Fire" like I heard... so that's the kind of people the Mountain Clan tribe are...

He didn't express it in words, but he admitted it to be the case nonetheless. It was rare for him to vocally compliment others in the first place.

But this was truly a beautiful and brilliant craftsmanship.

“By the way, is there anyone else who could create this gear? ”

This was his only concern.

Yamato wanted to prevent these crossbows, which had such power and operability, from being duplicated and landing in the hands of people who would misuse them. He wanted them to be used only in this village, to protect their lifestyles.

“Worry not. This was a special alloy I made from mixing some metals. Even if the continent is far and wide, there’s nobody else who can make it, this is a personal trade secret of mine.”

In order to dispel those worries, Gaton explained with a smile.

It could in theory be imitated by someone else, but the mechanism wouldn’t last, and it would end up breaking after several uses. Therefore, it being exploited could be prevented.

“If that’s the case, are you not planning on passing down the technique to one of your grandchildren?”

“Well, that’s a different matter.”

By Gaton’s side, there were a pair of Mountain Clan children.

A male and female twin pair, who were helping him at his workshop as apprentice craftworkers. At a glance, it felt difficult to judge which one was the boy and which one was the girl. The Mountain Clan were really strange people.

“Then please, make as many prototypes according to what we spoke yesterday. You can, right? Gaton ji-san.”

“You really are rough at treating people working for you. I already got my ‘compensation’, so don’t worry, I’ll work hard on that. Leave it to me.”

At that request, Gaton snorted while answering. Although the number of crossbows to make was large, the materials used weren’t that rare, so it seemed like they could agree on a date.

“Ok, the shooting test isn’t finished yet. Let move to the forest for now. Everyone, hurry up and get ready, be sure to not be left behind.”

After hearing those words, the children who were currently playing with the

prototype, replied and started to get prepared.

“You guys, lets hurry up!”

“Don’t forget to bring the cart! “

The villagers felt more energetic this morning after having eaten a hot pot of Big Rabbit and wild vegetables. No trace of the sullen expression they had back when Yamato first arrived remained on their faces.

Their eyes were shining, gleaming in anticipation of today’s harvest. The expectation of being able to once again secure food, had relit the light of hope in their eyes, the hope in living.

“Village chief, I’m sorry, but I ask you to take care of the village’s work again today, with everyone else.”

Before leaving, Yamato went to greet Liscia’s grandfather, the village chief. During their absence, the remaining villagers took on the job of cleaning and drying the Inahon already harvested, and also took care of the drying of the meat.

“No problem, leave it to us, Yamato-dono. I also ask you to take care of my granddaughter and the children in my stead.”

“Ok. Well then, we’re leaving.”

With this exchange, along with Liscia, he led the village children into the shallow part of the forest.

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The work in the forest progressed smoothly today as well, after dividing the group. The farming team was reaping the Inahon from the natural paddy fields. And two hunting teams were hunting Big Rabbits with the crossbows.

Currently they only had two crossbows, counting Yamato’s and the prototype. So practicing in order for everyone to get used to it was the main point. They were hunting wild beasts while at the same time patrolling the paddy fields. Guarding the farming team was an important job too, so this was like killing two birds with one stone.

Thanks to this, recently the number of wild beast that appeared close to the paddy fields had decreased.

As usual, he accompanied the hunting group, since they were the most prone to encounter a dangerous situation.

"You guys, don't let your guard down. Even if you're carrying a crossbow, your body is weak. Deal with the Big Rabbits in sets of three like I taught you."

"Understood, Yamato-niichan! "

As they've gotten used to it, these days, the children were the ones hunting the Big Rabbits all by themselves. The organization he came up with was to pair them up in sets of three people.

Two of them were the vanguard, and wielding some big shields, they coped up with the charge of the Big Rabbit. The one in the rear was the crossbow wielder, aiming at the beast while making sure not misfire at the other two.

The shields were ones the adults who guarded the village used.

It was useful that when used by the children, they covered their whole body. If the children devoted themselves solely to defend with the shield with both hands, the Big Rabbit charge could be deflected.

The children living in this remote village grew up surrounded by nature, so at least their legs were somewhat sturdy. But as expected, asking them to guard against the Wild Boar's charge was impossible.

"The next one is me! "

"I want to shoot too! "

"You guys, respect the order! Don't give Yamato-niichan more trouble! "

The children always followed Yamato's instructions, but occasionally, they argued and wanted to be the next one with the crossbow.

At those times, the oldest and tallest of the children, Guts called to them to behave. Because of his hot-blooded personality, he acted like the children's leader.

He's surely will become a reliable guy in the future, Yamato thought as he saw him.

"Yamato-niichan, we spotted another huge beast! "

It was at that moment.

The voice of one of the children watching the surrounding echoed. Apparently,

another big beast had come out from the forest.

It can't be that another Wild Boar appeared, right?() Were Yamato's concerns.

"Yamato-sama, that one is a Wild Ox."

"So this place also has wild cattle."

"That big cow is usually calm Yamato-niichan, is you use a crossbow, I'm sure you can't take it down easily."

The kid's leader Guts said while excitedly looking at the beast.

Despite their size, cattle-like animals were slow, and easier to deal with than something like a Wild Boar. Their fur was also thinner, and it seemed they could be killed more easily.

"Good! Aren't I lucky!?"

"Hey, wait."

He calmed the child who was apparently trying to hunt it.

Yamato had already come up with a better idea.

"Liscia-san, do you know what kind of temper these Oxen have?"

"Yes. Their temper is mild, not so rough. But I heard that once you try to capture them, they go wild and cannot be controlled."

"I see... ok, guys, leave this one to me."

After listening to Liscia's explanation, he devised a little plan. *I'm going to try and get all the things I want for the village.*

"I'm going to capture this big cow, and we're going to bring it back to the village."

"Such a!? It's dangerous, Yamato-sama!"

"That's reckless, Yamato-niichan!"

Every single child was opposed to that plan.

No matter how calm it may seem, this was a wild animal. If it decided he was trying to harm it, it might start to run amuck.

And an ox out of control was way more dangerous than a Wild Boar.

"Well, just stay there and quietly look. I'll show you my 'magic'."

After trying to calm their worries, he decided to execute his strategy to capture this Wild Ox.

Chapter 12

Livestock husbandry

The Wild Ox was successfully captured, and afterwards they returned to the village.

“Those are Wild Oxen. You’ve caught something quite amazing, Yamato-dono.”

“Today, we caught two, a male and a female. I’ll go search for more tomorrow, with a little luck, I might catch more.”

The old people in the village gathered and were staring in awe at the two Wild Oxen we captured and brought back from the forest.

Compared to normal livestock cattle, the Wild Oxen were huge and dangerous animals. Apparently, there had never been anyone who captured one alive before.

“Yamato-dono. What do you plan to do with them now that you’ve captured them?”

“First, feed them and tame them. After that, I’ll have them pull some farm equipment, and use them to help you with the cultivation.”

“Farm equipment... you say? ”

After hearing his proposal, the old men simply tilted their head in confusion.

Speaking of cattle, in this world, they were usually just kept for livestock. They collected their milk, and killed one or two for a festival once a year.

“But how will the Wild Oxen help with the farming... ”

“I’m sure he has knowledge we cannot even imagine. As expected of Yamato-dono... ”

The old people were surprised at his reply, but they also felt troubled. They had no idea of how to use cattle as a labor force.

As for the detailed method of tilling the land, he decided to explain it to them after the oxen were successfully tamed.

“So with that said, Gaton, can I ask you to craft the metal fixtures explained in this blueprint? Taking into consideration the physique of the Wild Oxen, of course.”

“Hmph, nothing but difficult requests from you ever since we met.”

After giving some simple instructions, he passed over a roughly drawn design to Gaton.

Things were sure to improve after the farming equipment was finished. The work performed by the adults, like tilling the soil and uprooting the tree stumps would become easier.

"Ohh, now that you say it, it feels that's the case. Leaving that aside, this is an agricultural tool called plow, it is pulled by cattle."

He briefly explained to Gaton.

When this equipment was completed, by using the Oxen to pull it, it will become an important labor force in Urd village, where nothing but children and old people remain.

In particular, Wild Oxen apparently had double the strength of his previous world cattle, so they were sure to become a reliable asset in the future.

This reminded him of an illustration of the history of the agricultural machinery development throughout the ages on Earth, which he used as a base for his rough blueprint. If Gaton was the one making it, he was sure he would be able to understand its purpose and make it easier to use.

"But you should prioritize the production of the crossbow. Craft this other thing after you've completed those."

"Hmph, it feels like I've become your slave. Even so, those are some huge Wild Oxen you've caught, I can't believe they are so quiet and serene after being caught."

Gaton said while surprised, as he was measuring the captured Wild Oxen.

Earlier this morning, he felt really surprised by the prototype crossbows. So watching Gaton being surprised for once, made Yamato feel even.

"They became like that after using some 'magic'."

"Magic... you say? "

Tilting his head in confusion, he repeated this word unknown to him.

"Blacksmith-jii-san! Yamato-niichan was really amazing! He approached the Wild Ox and then with a [Bzzzz!] It immediately became docile, like a different animal! "

The leader of the children, Guts, began to explain today events while doing a lot of

exaggerated hand gestures.

"You're making less and less sense, brat. And I doubt you'll tell me even if I ask you, right kid?"

"Yeah, that's a personal trade secret of mine."

Yamato replied with a vague answer after Gaton turned towards him and asked a question.

It would be easy to explain the principle behind this. But he believed it would be difficult to understand for the inhabitants of this different world, the tool I used to make the Wild Oxen docile.

An electric baton... but just in case, let's not reveal it.

What he had used was an electric baton to make the Wild Oxen unable to move.

After getting close, he delivered an intense electric shock to its back, near the spinal cord, and that was all it took to make it unable to run.

After all, animals with thin fur are weak to electricity...

He had this electric baton as a countermeasure in case he encountered wild animals while exploring the mountains in Japan, and had used it a few times. So, when he encountered a Wild Ox, he wanted to try a little experiment.

By the way, this electric baton is not something you could buy at the outdoor equipment stores.

It was one of the self-defense weapons that he had personally ordered, and he had it concealed in his backpack every time he went climbing.

A legitimate product with a "small twist", its power...

"So, can I leave the care and future breeding of the Wild Oxen to you, Village Chief?"

"Yeah, we're used to taking care of livestock. I'll keep them in an empty barn."

So it was decided that the older people will also be entrusted with taking care of the recently caught livestock.

They have bred livestock in this village since long ago. After the harvest of the paddy fields settled down, Yamato planned on making the children learn the caring and breeding methods too.

Ever since he first came here, no domesticated animals could be seen anywhere in the village. Along with the adults and the stockpiled grains, the Lord also took away the pigs and chickens as well.

"If I find either chickens, pigs, goats or sheep in the forest, I'll also try and capture them."

"Oh, that would help us a lot, Yamato-dono."

The Village chief told him that wild livestock also lived in the interior of the forest. But so far, nobody had been able to enter due to the dangerous beasts.

But now, after setting up a crossbow squad with the children, Yamato and the children could venture a bit further into the forest, little by little. He wanted to increase the range of their actions and collect the riches the forest had to offer.

Cows and goats are good for milk and making dairy products. Chickens for their eggs. Sheep for their wool and after breeding pigs, we can enjoy their tasty meat.

In the history of Earth, the relatively calm animals were bred and kept as livestock. And aside from killing them and eating them, various other valuable things could be gained from them.

Urd Village was located in a closed basin, a landscape surrounded by mountains and forests.

With the bandits running rampant on the road to the town, getting goods and trading has been pretty much impossible so far.

With that being the case, the need to be self-sufficient had to be fulfilled as soon as possible.

In order to do that, the Inahon and the making of paddy fields, along with the livestock breeding were necessary steps.

The Big Rabbits and the Wild Boars they first encountered were too violent to be kept as livestock. So those would continue to be hunt for their meat and fur.

But the quiet and calm beasts could be captured and kept for breeding. And in order for this plan of self-sufficiency to succeed, the wild beasts need to be hunted and have their meat preserved.

"Hey, kids. After the usual, we'll also learn craftsmanship while helping the village chief and the others."

Giving new instructions to the children after coming back from the forest, they finished tidying up.

The elderly people had a hard time doing hard labor, with their weakened bodies. However, their traditions, knowledge and methods were this village's treasures and couldn't be replaced. So, Yamato intended to keep the children active and learn them so they could inherit them.

"Okay, Yamato-niichan!"

"Alright, everyone, let's see who finishes first!"

"Ah, hey, wait for me."

The children started to move to the next job as if they tried to compete. If it involves their way of life, they really became obedient. Perhaps they knew that everything they learn and experience will become a tool that will help them live a better life, or it might just be their instinct.

Just like a cotton absorbs water, they too absorbed all the knowledge and techniques they were taught.

Well then, seems like I can't be left behind...

Recently, he also started to learn some of the skills from the old people. For him, who came from Japan, he felt grateful for their teachings, they who have survived in this harsh environment, surrounded by mountains.

The people of Urd, the village of Urd...

While getting lost in his thoughts, he stared deeply at the state of this peaceful village.
It would be good if every day was just like this.

—So he started to live in this village, in Urd Village. And since the day he first came, a month quickly went by.

Chapter 13

The food of hope

A month quickly went by since Yamato first came to Urd Village.

“All right, with this, the Inahon harvesting is finally completed today.”

The grain harvesting of the Inahon, native to the natural paddy fields near the forest was finally over. The sight before him was one filled with the newly harvested and now empty paddy fields.

“You guys, you really did well.”

He directed those words towards the children, who just like him, were gazing at the state of the rice fields.

“We really finished it, all of this...”

“At first my arms and back hurt so bad I wanted to cry...”

They felt deeply moved after finally completing this job, and tried to express their emotions with words.

Manual rice harvesting took a lot of time, and was very taxing on the body. And finally accomplishing this goal, they were very touched by having done it all with they own power.

“It not good to be impressed forever, guys. We need to start preparing for next spring's rice planting.”

“Ehh, you really are a slave driver, Yamato-niichan! ”

“For real—”

It took time and effort to cultivate rice throughout the whole year.

It was necessary to turn the soil over, having the bottom layer on top, before the winter arrived.

In addition to that, Yamato wanted to prepare some sort of soil improvement, and have it ready before the spring planting began.

The amount of Inahon harvested in comparison with the size of the natural paddy field was small. I suppose that is the limit it has while growing in the wild.

The natural paddy field near the forest was the savior of this village, it really helped against the food shortage in Urd.

However, the yield was far below the harvest Japan would have of a field of that size, because while in its natural state, the hand of man had never touched it to help it improve.

But interpreting it the other way, we can still increase the yield.

Therefore, his plan was to improve the paddy field.

Between the Edo period, and the Meiji and Showa era, the technology used on the rice harvesting and processing in Japan improved by leaps and bounds. With the invention of new agricultural machinery, the implementation of fertilizers and the use of cattle in order to help with the plowing, in some cases, the rice yield even doubled.

He intended to apply that same technology and knowledge to improve the level of civilization on this different world's village.

In order to do that, the power of the Oxen and the smiting techniques of the old man Gaton are needed.

So, looking forwards to next year's production, he decided to start preparing.

The labor force in this village was limited, with only children and old people as its inhabitants. For that reason, he was trying to implement as many agricultural reforms as he could to make their life styles a little easier, to improve this world's civilization.

With the knowledge of my former world, of Japan. I'll improve this environment, to make it suitable for the Inahon cultivation. I also can count on the help of the outstanding blacksmith Gaton and his two grandchildren.

For Urd Village, which had fallen into quite a dilemma, these were really miraculous gifts.

And above all...

“Yamato-niichan, we’ve finished loading the tools to the cart.”

“What kind of job are we going to do next after getting to the village? Tell us! ”

“Hey, guys! Don’t rush Yamato-niichan! Don’t you see he’s making that ‘troubled face’ again? ”

The most miraculous gift was ‘them’.

The children of Urd, always bright and devoted to any job he gave them. Without them, harvesting the Inahon and hunting wouldn’t have been so smooth up to this point.

He tried no to say it out loud, but he really appreciated them.

“By the way, Liscia-san. Am I really making a ‘troubled face’? ”

“That is... well... no... I believe that Yamato-sama who makes such a face is still wise and lovely! ”

Next to him, Liscia was troubled on how to reply to his question.

She was always by his side, and suddenly seeing here trouble as to how to answer was a fun sight.

I could get used to the life in this village. It would also be good to try and be a little more amiable...

He tried to be as polite as possible, since the whole village was taking care of him, an outsider.

But in the future, he thought to should be a bit more careful about his troubled expressions. But for that, first of all, he had to practice ‘smiling’.

“Hey! Yamato-niichan is making a weird face now! ”

“Wooah, it’s true! That’s a really funny face! ”

“Hey, don’t be rude to Yamato-sama! ”

“But it’s the truth, Liscia-neechan.”

“Waa, quick, everyone, run away from neechan! ”

It was true.

The children of Urd were bright and dedicated, and even reliable.

But... he now strongly felt the need to never let them know how he felt.

“Ok, let’s go back to the village.”

And so, he was able to reconfirm that he was still not very good at dealing with children. And like this, the Inahon harvesting was finally completed at long last.

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After cutting all the Inahon native to the forest, they came back to the village.

“Properly clean up all the tools. After that, let’s go help with the threshing work too.”
“Ok! ”

To those words, the children replied energetically. Being able to change gears so easily, energetic children were indeed amazing.

“Yamato-dono, the Inahon finished drying, so we’re now threshing it.”
“Oh, that’s great, Village Chief.”

The work Yamato asked them to do before leaving seemed to be progressing well.

“Good, if it’s dried like this, it will become easier”

He said while checking the current moisture content on the Inahon.

The Inahon was spread in the village square, it was that which they had cut down with sickles near the forest previously.

To briefly describe the method, it was a simple sun drying. By doing this, the moisture evaporated making the grain last longer, and it also improved its flavor.

After this, what was left was only for it to be passed through the thresher.

“How’s the tool doing? ”
“So far, it’s going well.”

Yamato went to check the progress on the threshing process he instructed them on doing during his absence.

Gaton was the person supervising the threshing tool, and the ones working on it were the old people and the children who didn’t go to the forest today.

"But that aside, this thing called 'Senbakoki' is a really convenient tool. As expected of the 'Sage'."

"I think that you, who made this tool from that rough sketch I gave you, are more incredible. Gaton jii-san."

"Sadly, I can't take the credit this time, it was made by my grandchildren."

"So those two made it... no wonder it's shaped like that."

"Piss off, boy."

As usual, Gaton answered with that crude vocabulary of his. However, the sense of completeness given by the tools the Mountain Clan People made was still amazing. Speaking of which, about the 'sage' title. Recently, The villagers started to refer to him as such, and despite him asking them to stop, they continued so he just tried to forget about it.

By the way, this 'Senbakoki' was an epoch-making farm equipment invented in the Edo period. It was a revolutionary invention which dramatically improved the tedious and time-consuming threshing of that era, increasing its efficiency and speed.

All I did was pass a simple rough sketch and have Gaton in charge of its production, Yamato thought.

And by his earlier words, this time it was his grandchildren the ones who made this senbakoki.

They should be around the age of elementary school students. Being able to replicate such an apparatus, the skills of the Mountain Clan were surely amazing.

After checking the threshing, he then moved over to the warehouse.

"So all of these are Inahon... With this much rice, we'll have more than enough to last us until autumn of next year"

Confirming the number of hemp bags filled with rice, he made a rough estimate.

"Instead of eating wheat, this will surely become the staple food for Urd in the future, 'Rice'...right? Yamato-sama.

Impressed while looking at the stacked hemp sacks filled with rice, Liscia expressed her thoughts. She was pleased with the prospect of this grain becoming the new staple

food.

“Yeah, that’s right. In the future, we will continue to plant wheat, on a lesser quantity though, and Inahon will be the main crop.”

In Urd Village, wheat had been the staple food so far.

But in recent years, the growth of wheat had been unstable due to changes in the climate. In order to compensate for that, they purchased it from traders and stockpiled it.

But this became a critical situation when the bandits appeared in the highway to the big town, and that made trading impossible.

“Inahon can be cultivated every year continuously without any problems, so rest assured.”

“Such an unbelievable story... that’s really great news, Yamato-sama!“

There was the risk of ‘continuous cultivation damage’ by only growing wheat in the same place.

Compared to that, rice was an excellent grain that could be cultivated and harvested in a well-balanced manner. As for the climate, since the Inahon had been resistant so far while continuously growing wildly in the forest, there was nothing they had to worry about.

“In the spring of next year, we will plant and cultivate the Inahon seedlings. We’ll mainly use the natural paddy field near the forest. I’ll also try to cultivate Inahon in the destroyed wheat fields in the village as an experiment.”

“So you will remodel the wheat fields into rice fields... can that be done? Yamato-sama.”

“That’s where the Wild Oxen and the farming tools I had Gaton make come into place.”

He explained to the anxious Liscia in order to reassure her.

If his agricultural reforms got right on track, the food production on the village would stabilize as a result. They would also be able to resume the raising of livestock and the cultivation of vegetables, in order to enrich their lives.

People cannot live healthy and enriched lives with rice alone, after all.

If the grain production and food gathering becomes stable, the state of Urd Village will

surely improve...

Urd was blessed with a natural environment in this mountain basin. Gifted with abundant water and clear air.

And although deep into the forest wild beasts lurked, they could gather the blessings of the forest once the crossbow squad got up and running. With this, the need for firewood to be used as fuel and wild beasts fur and meat, would be covered.

It may still take a while. But now, people can keep on living since they can now see the light of hope.

He was currently looking at that same hope in the form of the villagers performing the threshing with a smile on their faces. It made him feel that it would somehow work out.

“Yamato-sama...”

It was as he was thinking that.

Liscia quietly called to him from his side.

Her voice had a different tone than usual... It made one wonder what was this about.

“Yamato-sama... could you please lend me some of your time tonight? I need to talk to you...”

“Yeah, no problem. What’s wrong?”

Liscia was the oldest girl in the village, although she was still young.

Her knowledge and presence had always helped Yamato. And since it was her making that request, he saw no reason to refuse it.

“Thank you, Yamato-sama! I’m looking forward to seeing you tonight...”

After saying that, she happily left.

Leaving Yamato wondering what she would want to talk about.

And so, he was invited by Liscia, to meet her tonight.

Chapter 14

Liscia and Yamato

The work finally finished in the afternoon, and the sunset dyed Urd Village with its colors.

“I’m sure the meeting place with Liscia-san was ahead from here...”

As promised, he went to meet with Liscia, the village chief granddaughter. She said she had something important to tell him, and wanted him to meet her after the sun had set.

“That observation deck, right?...”

The meeting place was one of those so called observation decks, it was in a hill a little walk away from the village.

“Liscia-san, sorry to keep you waiting.”

“I-I also, just got here.”

Although she said that, one could notice the grass under her feet heavily walked upon. Most likely, she came here way earlier and was walking back and forth while waiting for Yamato.

“By the way, what was it that you wanted to talk about?”

Liscia said she had something to tell him.

Her face at that moment was resolute and serious, but right now her face was tinted red and one could easily tell she was very nervous. It was probably something really important to her.

Since Yamato was not good at beating around the bush, he went and asked her upfront.

“The truth is... I wanted to express my gratitude to Yamato-sama...”

“‘Your gratitude’, you say?”

“Yes... with regards to everything you have done so far...”

Liscia thanked him with a grateful tone.

She started talking about the time, a month ago, when he saved her while she was being attacked by Big Rabbits.

About the Big Rabbit meat he shared with the hungry children of the village.

Also about the discovered new grain, the fruit of the Inahon plant, which solved the food shortage in the village.

About the implementation of his personal crossbow, and how he had taught the villagers to be self-dependent.

And how by introducing revolutionary farming and livestock methods, he had given hope to the villagers, a hope to keep on living.

“We’ve received countless gifts from Yamato-sama... really, thank you very much.”

“Don’t worry about it. I did what I did because I wanted to.”

“It’s bad to act humble, Yamato-sama.”

“Sorry, it’s just, this is how I am.”

“Hehehe... I know.”

Those last words she said were spoken in a teasing tone.

Spending a month together, Liscia somewhat had already grasped Yamato’s personality.

“Now that I think about it, winter will arrive soon.”

“Yes... the ‘Spirit of Winter’ might descend to the village from that big mountain range.”

Liscia had already told him that Urd Village experienced all four seasons; spring, summer, autumn and winter.

Right now, after having finished the Inahon collection, was late autumn. Soon, a thin layer of white snow will cover this basin. Due to humidity problems, less snow fell now, but the severe cold still lasted for about three months.

Incidentally, the ‘Spirit of Winter’ was similar to a metaphor for Yamato. At least, he believed there was no way such fantasy-like creature could really exist.

“We have to take measures against the cold soon. Like repairing the damaged houses, getting firewood ready and also proper clothing.”

“Yes, it seems we will be busy tomorrow too, Yamato-sama.”

All the food was taken away by the Lord. But, fortunately or unfortunately, all the buildings and the firewood stockpile weren’t touched at all.

The current reduced population was comprised of only children and old people. To survive the tough winter, they needed to limit the number of living spaces, and move to a more communal life style. That in order to improve the fuel efficiency and safety.

“The firewood stocks are fine, right? ”

“Yes, I already confirmed the stockpiled amount.”

They could safely go through the winter with the current amount of firewood in the village. But next year, they would need to cut down some trees in the forest and stockpile more for next winter.

“The rest would be the fur clothing... ”

“No problem with that either. All thanks to Yamato-sama’s Big Rabbit hunting.”

“Oh, I see.”

Although the people of Urd preferred to wear colorful cloths, like their traditional costumes, for winter they also wore furs on top.

There was a good enough stock of beast furs, but just in case they needed to continue hunting and increase the numbers for the winter months.

“Since Urd’s leather products are high quality, are they popular? ”

“Yeah, in the large towns they are usually traded at high prices.”

In Liscia’s words, the demand of leather products from this village was quite high. So Yamato thought this would be a way to secure a trading currency from the city in the future.

In anticipation of this, the fur already dismantled from hunting was being cleaned and tanned and was prepared so it could be ready to be used at any time.

The leatherworking skills of the old villagers were really excellent. During winter, he had planned to let the children learn leatherworking, so that the tradition could be

passed down.

“At least it seems that we’ll manage regarding food during winter”

“Yes. All thanks to Yamato-sama.”

The food distribution was being planned taking into consideration the health of the villagers.

The Inahon was a variety of rice, which made it rich in carbohydrates. And the protein would come from the wild beasts’ meat, like the Big Rabbit.

The Inahon grain stockpile was likely to last until next year’s fall.

They needed to hunt a little more before the winter arrived and hunting became more difficult, and process it into dried meat, which could be preserved for longer. But since those preparations were almost done, there seemed to be nothing to worry about.

They won’t be able to go outside as much during winter, but there were still many jobs that could be done.

“It feels like winter will also be a busy season, Liscia-san.”

“Yeah... but it’s going to be ok! ”

Liscia answered with a strange confidence. No matter what difficulties may arrive, everyone was filled with hope.

“It feels you are really pumped up today, Liscia-san.”

“Yes! It’s because Yamato-sama is here, so I don’t have any worries or concerns. The ‘Sage’ Yamato-sama is the village’s savior”

“That much is a little... ”

“It’s bad to act humble, Yamato-sama.”

“Sorry, it’s just, this is how I am.”

“Hehehe... I know.”

Again, Liscia teased Yamato.

But as she did, a happy smile blossomed in her face. Those were her honest feelings.

“S-speaking of which... Yamato-sama... ”

“What’s up, suddenly so formal? ”

“A-about the important thing I wanted to tell to you... ”

So far, the conversation was just small talk. Liscia suddenly turned serious and began to speak.

“The next spring... I’ll finally become an adult.”

In Urd, one was considered an adult once they became fourteen years old. With this, they were recognized as independent adults, and were allowed to drink alcohol and to marry. They also had the right to vote at the village meetings and the right to possess property.

“I see... so Liscia-san will become an adult soon?”

Now that I think about it, I never asked what her age was, Yamato thought. Ever since the time when they both met in the forest, she already gave a grown-up vibe. She always felt like a proper member of the adult society.

“What does... Yamato-sama think of me... ?”

Liscia asked, while staring at him with a serious look. A question seemingly coming out of nowhere, and now asked after spending this time together.

“Liscia-san is a wonderful girl.”

“R-really!?”

“Yeah.”

Those words carried no lie.

As the granddaughter of the village chief, she was intelligent and had a bright mind. She had a strong sense of responsibility and always tried her best for the villagers without cowering before the danger.

“The only times I can truly feel at ease, are when Liscia is around.”

“Making Yamato-sama feel at ease...”

There was also no lie in those words.

Despite being the granddaughter of the village chief, Liscia was also a hunter. When he first met her, she was surrounded by a herd of Big Rabbits, and gave the feeling of being defenseless.

However, her skills as a hunter were outstanding.

Soon, Gaton will finish Liscia's personal 'bow' requested by Yamato. And that would make her an even more reliable presence for him.

"I will be celebrating my fourteenth birthday soon... that means... I will be able to get married..."

"I see, the people in Urd really grow fast. But in my hometown, women cannot marry unless they are sixteen."

Japanese law stated that women couldn't marry until after they reached the age of sixteen.

In comparison, this world's, the age was two years earlier. Perhaps that rule was implemented because the average life expectancy was lower in this world.

"Unless they are sixteen... will Yamato-sama stay in this village for two more years?"

"Yeah... I will be in the care of the village until it gets back on track."

There was a lot of work to be done the coming spring.

It will still take at least a few more years until the situation in the village stabilized, and Urd became self-sufficient once again. This was, after all, a long-term plan.

"Understood! I'll wait another two years! I'll give my best!"

"Yeah, let's do our best together."

"Yes... together... with Yamato-sama."

Liscia's face turned red as she blushed by repeating his words. It gave off a refreshing feeling, seeing her making that face.

Today she appeared to be very affected by her emotions, very much unlike the usual Liscia.

As he was wondering about the cause.

[Autumn weather is as fickle as a woman's heart]

Such a proverb came to his mind. But Yamato decided to shelf those thoughts in his mind for the moment.

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“Yamato-niichan!!”

It was at then.

Someone’s voice was approaching while calling his name.

“Guys, I found Yamato-niichan! ”

“Ah, Liscia-nee-chan is also here! ”

The voice belonged to one of the children, the leader-like boy.

Rushing all the way from the slope, he came to the deck. It appeared he was looking for Yamato.

“What’s wrong kids? ”

He asked the children, as they were catching their breath. Wondering what had happened.

Perhaps some kind of accident? As he thought of that possibility he became wary of the surroundings.

However, these children had smug smiles on their faces. So, that was probably not the case.

“We came to pick up Yamato-niichan, since you are the leading star tonight! ”

“Yes, leading star! ”

That was how they answered his question.

But he still was unsure of what they were referring to.

I haven’t heard of any event taking place tonight. As he thought that, he began to wonder the reason behind this.

“It’s ok, just come, quick Yamato-niichan! ”

“Liscia-nee-chan too! ”

But before he could speak, he was taken away without being able to understand a thing.

Chapter 15

A welcomed protagonist

While Yamato and Liscia were talking, the children suddenly came and forcibly pulled them.

“Where are we going?”
“It’s a secret, Yamato-niichan!”
“Yeah, a secret! ”

While coming down from the hill where the observation deck was located, they were guided back to the center of the village by the children.
The area was dimly lit, and the ‘two moons’ in the sky were illuminating the land. It had already become night as he was talking to Liscia.

It feels like the twin moons are dancing in the sky. When I look at them, it reminds me this is a different world...

He wallowed in that deep emotion while being pulled by the children.

It had been just one month, a month since he was transferred to this world. What caused it or for what reason did it happen remained a mystery, but he just suddenly appeared in an unknown forest.

Thinking about it now, I was really lucky to have met Liscia... truly a miraculous encounter.

After helping her, she guided him outside the forest, and was taken in the care of this mountain village, Urd.

At first, he only planned to stay one night.

His mind was set on moving to a nearby, bigger town as soon as dawn arrived back then.

Honestly, my first impression of this village was pretty bad.

But regardless of that, he decided to stay in this remote village. It happened so whimsically, that he wasn't sure why he decided to do so.

After that, he began searching for food to survive, and challenging wild beasts while being aware of the danger they presented.

Big Rabbits that attack people, Wild Boars so big they look like monsters... They make it feel like this is a fantasy world...

Such tumultuous days were unthinkable when he lived back in the safe and prosperous Japan.

But in a way, his heart was filled with awe. A sense of fulfillment that he could never get when he lived in Japan was now seeping deep into his soul.

He was a simple employee at an average company, but he thirsted for more. Something more than his boring and plain daily routine, he went to work at the time he was required to, he did the job he was given, and then he returned home and went to bed, but he wanted more.

Working is important to live... but something just felt wrong...

Even while properly doing his work, his heart still felt thirsty. He tried to fill that thirst by using his holidays to do mountain climbing, and used the times with consecutive holidays to visit unexplored parts of the world.

However, he was soon made aware that his thirst couldn't be sated with just that.

Why did I come to this world... ?

When he was transported here he could only think of that question, why?

Why him, an ordinary Japanese person, had come to this different world?

Over and over he kept asking that same question, almost like a prayer. Obviously, but he couldn't come up with an answer.

Why to this different world?... why did he come to Urd Village?

“We’re here, Yamato-niichan! “

It was at that moment.

The leading children spoke. They had finally arrived at the ‘secret’ place.

“Yamato-niichan, you’re making a ‘troubled face’ again, are you ok? ”

“Well, just for today, we should let him be. ”

The children pointed to an empty seat, as if telling him to go take that seat.

The current location was an open-air plaza near the center of the village. There was a long table, and many small chairs arranged, seemingly alluding to a festival being prepared.

“This... is something going on tonight? ”

Going to meet the village chief who had just arrived, he asked him.

All the elderly people and children in the village were already gathered in this plaza.

“This is a ‘welcoming party’, Yamato-dono.”

“Yeah, a welcome! ”

“A well come! ”

The children in the plaza started to imitate the words of the village chief.

“So a ‘welcoming party’. I wonder whose... ”

He honestly had no idea.

Perhaps a sudden visitor arrived at the village when I went to the observation deck, he thought.

But, a feast of this scale couldn’t be prepared with such a short notice. There were a variety of dishes of vegetables and meat, lined up in the narrow table.

The villagers were dressed in Urd’s traditional clothes.

Their beautiful designs woven in bright colors were a pleasure to the eyes. And similar to them, Liscia was also wearing the same costume.

“Well, it’s obvious that Yamato-niichan didn’t notice, since we were preparing it in secret! ”

“Right! We also helped with the preparation and the meals, Yamato-niichan! ”

After seeing his puzzled face, the children began to explain. During these past few days, the all the people in the village were secretly preparing this party.

“It is true that I never noticed... by the way, whose ‘welcoming party’ is this? “

Not hearing the name of the person, he asked. He thought perhaps it was someone who was already in the plaza.

But no matter where he looked, there were only villagers he was familiar with. No outsider that could be considered a guest was visible.

“Eh... ?”

“You still haven’t noticed, Yamato-niichan!?”

“Tell me you’re kidding, niichan.”

“Well, I don’t know, and I haven’t heard anything from you yet.”

At his response, the children were stunned with their mouths open.

They had already given him several hints in the conversation so far. But believing they might be local idioms or double sense words he was not familiar with, he decided to ignore them.

“Tonight is... Yamato-sama’s welcoming party.”

Next to him, Liscia removed the shocked atmosphere by telling him straight.

“Today has been exactly one month since Yamato-sama started living in the village. Throwing a party to give a welcome is one of the customs of the people of Urd. And this one is for Yamato-sama...”

Liscia said while wearing a tired smile. Then it became clear for him that the guest of honor of tonight’s party was him, Yamato.

“A welcoming party, for me...”

At the unexpected turn of events, he was at lost for words.

This was a surprise for him.

He honestly never imagined that the villagers had such feelings towards him.

With the adults being forcibly taken away by the evil Lord. And their food and livestock also stolen, this was a village destined to be destroyed by starvation until just recently.

Even now, their lives weren't that easy either.

The food on this table was perhaps prepared by setting aside part of their daily rations. All in order not to raise suspicion about the secret party.

"Originally we, the people of Urd, like festivals, Yamato-sama."

"Oh, is that so...?"

Liscia explained their customs as Yamato finally grasped the situation.

The people of Urd placed great importance in celebrating many occurrences throughout the year, like harvest festivals, praying festivals or birthdays among others. For that reason, they were serious in their everyday work, and tended to live in moderation.

"Only for today, we'll be serving the village's treasured liquor!"

With the preparations completed and the explanations over, it was finally time to start the party.

The village chief smiled as he handed Yamato a mug filled with a liquor.

"Do you drink, Yamato-dono?"

"A drink huh?... I'll happily receive it."

"That's good. Gaton-dono will be delighted."

Gaton could be seen also seated in the plaza.

He was a person who loved alcohol, and was already happily drinking.

"Yamato-niichan! Hurry up and give a toast so we can eat!"

"Our bellies are really really hungry."

The innocent children raised their dissatisfied voices since the feast hadn't started yet.

"Well then, Yamato-dono, if you could please say some words."

"Right..."

At the village chief's unexpected remark, he felt at loss about what should he say. He wasn't sure what would be the proper words.

Haah... I'm really not good at fancy talk

Deciding on what his words would be. He got ready to say some simple and straightforward words, very much fitting himself.

“For a bright tomorrow for this Village... Cheers! “

”Cheers! ”

“We too! Cheers!! “

And so, the feast finally begun.

Everyone was enjoying the feast while sitting and having a friendly talk. A bright smile could be seen on each of their faces as they ate and drank.

The village chief served his treasured alcohol, which had been aging in his personal storehouse. The old people were really talkative after becoming drunk.

And with music from instruments that suddenly came from somewhere, the villagers started to sing and dance. Regardless of age or sex, everyone in the village was very cheerful.

Wearing the colorful costumes, while dancing around a big bonfire, it really was an amazing sight.

The busy days in Urd Village will start again tomorrow.

A mountain of preparations needed to be completed to overcome the harsh, upcoming winter.

But not one of the villagers was pessimistic.

Because they knew.

That after the harsh winter, the spring was sure to come, bringing with it hope.

And everyone was aware. That the wise savior of this village had arrived.

“Hey kids, don’t stay up too late. Tomorrow’s morning will begin early.”

“Ehh, isn’t it fine just for today? You’re so mean, Yamato-niichan! “

“Sorry, but that’s how I am.”

“Everyone knows! ”

“Yeah, yeah, we know! “

The ‘welcoming party’ continued until late at night.
As if to encourage themselves to overcome the harsh winter that was approaching.
Everyone was smiling and laughing from the bottom of their hearts.

◇ ◇ ◇

That same evening.
There was a group of people looking at the state of the village from afar.

“Hey, look.”
“Oh, it’s quite lively. Are they having a festival?”

“Wasn’t that supposed to be a village destroyed by ‘Boss’? ”
“It seems like they still had some food and wealth hidden.”

“Okay, I’ll return and report what we’ve seen.”
“It will be a ripe fruit to grab after the snow melts.”
“Yeah, I’m looking forward to it... this time we really will take away everything from that village.”

The armed group then quietly left.
To let the village thrive, then take it all away after it was ripe.

◇ ◇ ◇

Thus, the village entered the harsh winter season, and three months later, it greeted a new season.

“Finally, spring... ”
This was his first spring living in this remote village.

Chapter 16

[Idle talk]: Night of the welcoming party – Blacksmith Gaton side

The ‘welcoming party’ had reached its end.

“Is this spot empty? ”

“Originally, the land has no true owner. You’re free to seat wherever you want to.”

“Makes sense.”

He decided to seat on the chair in front of this Mountain Clan old man, Gaton.

“Are the brats already asleep? ”

“That’s also one of their duties, to sleep since they are still growing. Right now, Lisciasan is finishing taking them to bed.”

As the feast approached its end, one could notice the figure of small children rubbing their sleepy eyes, appearing here and there. He had now just come back from helping Liscia putting them to sleep.

Right now, there was only them and some of the elderly people, drinking and eating while chatting in the plaza.

“Then, can you still drink? ”

“Ah, I’ll gladly accept.”

As he answered, Gaton then poured liquor into Yamato’s mug. This local alcohol had a nice, stimulating scent, and it was very treasured by the villagers.

“The village children really like you, oh Sage-dono.”

“Stop it with the jokes, Gaton jii-san. You can call me ‘kid’ like you always do. Besides, I’m not really good at dealing with children either.”

“You keep saying that, but who’s the one that has been showing results? That’s you,

kid."

"It was just a coincidence."

They kept talking while drinking.

Just as he was telling Gaton, he truly felt it was just by pure coincidence that the village had shown the current results.

That went for the existence of the grain called Inahon, and so was true for the high adaptability of the children. It just happened that the nature blessings of the environment surrounding the village kept overlapping.

And the biggest of those blessings was sitting right in front of him.

"I came to express my thanks to you today. Blacksmith Gaton, without you here, things wouldn't have gone so well so far."

"Hmph, tonight you're being quite straightforward, aren't you, kid? Maybe tomorrow it will rain spears."

"I'm always straightforward. And no, spears don't just fall from the sky."

He was just speaking the truth in these words of gratitude.

The appreciation he felt for Gaton and all he had done for him or rather, for the village, was real. He had been implementing various reforms to improve the civilization in Urd Village, such as the crossbows, the farming equipment, and about the household goods.

However, it was Gaton and his grandchildren the ones who turned his rough drawings into the actual thing. So it wasn't farfetched to say that without them, the life in the village wouldn't be this rich, and they would have struggled a lot more.

"I just do what is interesting to me, as a craftsman. And those just happened to be the things on your drawings."

"If that is so, then this will be fast. I've already drawn a few more drawings. Could I leave it to you? to make them during winter?"

"Hmph. And also the same as usual, kid's still a slave driver."

Despite saying that, one could see a happy grin in his face.

An expression as if saying [Whatever your drawing might be, I can do it as long as it's made with metal].

This person might really be able to make just about anything...

The frightening part of this old craftsman was not his outstanding smithing skills, but his flexible senses in the application of those skills.

He instantly understood the principles behind the crossbow and the farming equipment used in Yamato's world just from a drawing, and he adapted it to make them easier to use in this world.

"By the way, kid... no, Yamato."

It was then.

The tone of the person sitting in front of Yamato changed.

"What is it, Gaton."

Therefore he also changed into a more serious expression as he stared straight ahead.

"Just what is your true identity? 'Who' are you?"

"....."

He left the question hanging for a while unanswered.

He already expected this to be asked someday, but he never thought Gaton would be the first one to do it.

"I'm just a person who loves mountains (*Pun not translated, basically 'I'm just Yamato'*). If I had to say it differently, I've seen a lot of things that do not exist in this country."

"...I see."

To his answer, Gaton just quietly nodded. He didn't pursue any further.

"I also have a question to ask. Who are you, Gaton? Why did you decide to stay in this remote village possessing those incredible skills?"

Yamato also decided to ask a question he had always been curious about.

According to Liscia, Gaton was one of the only three people in the continent to possess the title of 'Grand Master Blacksmith'.

One of the three who reigned supreme above all the countless blacksmiths. A person

that should be living a life of wealth and riches, serving as a blacksmith of a powerful country, and with a status similar to that of nobles.

"I'm simply a man who loves iron. I just feel indebted to the people of Urd. Basically, the same as you."

"...I see."

He didn't intend to pursue any further, so Yamato simply nodded quietly at his reply. They both had things they didn't want others to hear.

"Kid... what are your plans in the village from now on?"

"Even if you ask me, it would be to live, to do anything necessary to keep on living."

There were still many issues to be solved, like to keep securing food, or to resolve the shortage of manpower.

But above all, it was necessary to overcome the upcoming winter, and to decide on the actions to take once spring arrived.

"I don't know how the country where you came from was like, but currently, there's a lot of mayhem in the continent."

"Yeah, I already heard about it from Liscia-san."

For now, Urd Village was enjoying some peace.

The reason being that, while secluded in this mountainous region, the geographical location helped by keeping the village relatively isolated.

Although it nominally belonged to a lord, this village was neglected since it was too far away from the city.

However, greedy people were the same in any world.

Gaton continued by saying that if the living conditions of this once almost destroyed village improved, danger would definitely come.

"I've been thinking about that. And I'll have the children do something during winter"

"Don't be too hard on the brats, oh Sage-dono."

"The weak cannot survive... that's just a rule of nature."

"That's true..."

The old craftsman Gaton narrowed his eyes and showed a slightly sad expression as

he answered.

He also had his important grandchildren. So, he also felt a little worried about their future.

“Don’t worry, I won’t let anyone die.”

Those words were his promise as well as his resolve. Yamato wanted the people in this village to live their lives with hope, and for that, he would share his wisdom and skills with them.

“Look at you, speaking such reliable words.”

“But in exchange, the new things I want you to make. Can you have a prototype ready soon?”

“Hey! Do you want to overwork me to death!?”

“So far, your body seems to be holding on just fine. Truly a prideful man of the Mountain Clan People.”

“That is obvious, who do you think you’re talking to?”

They continued talking as they enjoyed the conversation. It was very enjoyable for Yamato, despite the fact that this was an old man who liked to bicker back and forth.

“Hmph, should we have another drink, kid?”

“Sure, I’ll take it.”

While drinking Urd’s peculiar liquor, they both continued to enjoy the party.

Chapter 17

[Idle talk]: Night of the welcoming party – Village Chief side

The ‘welcoming party’ had already ended.

“Yamato-dono, is this seat available? ”

“Yeah, go ahead. Village chief.”

Urd’s village chief asked then sat down in the seat in front of Yamato.

The old blacksmith Gaton already went back to his workshop after he handed over to him the new drawings of what he asked him to craft.

Right now, there was only them and some of the elderly people, drinking and eating while chatting in the village plaza.

“Did you enjoy the feast, Yamato-dono?”

“It was good.”

“I’m glad to hear that.”

He tried to express his gratitude. Using the same polite speech as he always did with the village chief.

“Come on, Yamato-dono. Here, have another drink.”

“Ah, I’ll gladly accept.”

The village chief then poured some alcohol into his mug. It was a peculiar local liquor, but it tasted extremely delicious.

“That reminds me, before the feast, you and my granddaughter were at the observation deck... ”

“We were just talking about the village and the future.”

“I see.”

The chief of this village was already an old man.

Recently, as his age increased, his granddaughter Liscia had joined him in leading the villagers.

Together with her, Yamato had been working while at the same time learning new things as he consulted with her.

[Liscia will become the acting village head. She will help implement the ideas Yamato has in my stead]... ... That was the position the Village Chief had taken as he asked him to help with the village affairs.

“By the way, Chief, I got something to ask you.”

“What is it? Go ahead Yamato-dono, I’ll answer it if I can.”

The village chief said he would answer anything as long as it was in the range of his knowledge. That knowledge was the best in the village since he was one of the oldest people and its chief.

And since he had given his consent, Yamato asked.

“I’m not good at beating around the bush. So, I’ll just go straight to the point. The [Inhabitants of Urd], who are you?”

“The people of Urd, is it... ? Well... ”

“It’s ok if it’s only a little for now. But please tell properly me in the future.”

“.....”

The village chief became silent at the unexpected question.

The current atmosphere was very awkward, but this was something Yamato absolutely wanted to hear.

[Who are the people of Urd?]

During this past month, as he has been living and hunting together with the village children, this was a question that he came to wonder more and more.

“It’s ok if I tell you an old story first, Yamato-sama?”

“Yeah.”

Whether his feelings were properly conveyed or not, the village chief opened his

mouth and replied. With eyes expressing a sincere intention.

“Long ago, there existed a clan of talented individuals that aimed at uniting the continent under a single rule...”

He quietly started speaking.

About a clan born with a mysterious power and a superior physical ability. They survived in an era of war with their own skills, and advanced their plans of unifying the continent step by step until it was almost completed.

But, one day.

They met betrayal by the hands of their trusted subordinates, and the country they had built was ruined.

“The surviving members of that clan escaped and moved to a remote mountainous region, choosing to live quietly with nature...”

And so, the village chief story ended.

This story was only orally transmitted to every succeeding village chief. A secret no other villager knew about.

“So the people of Urd are the descendants of that clan?”

“It’s an old tale passed down to each village chief.”

He didn’t try to deny that question.

In other words, this was a true story. A story about how the ancestors of the people of Urd fought wars and came out victorious.

“I see... so that’s the reason the children have such high physical abilities and amazing aptitude.”

“The blood of Urd has become thinner. They no longer have the strength to crush rocks with their bare hands, nor the power to run faster than a gale.”

In the past, the people of Urd could accomplish such feats. It was a frightening story, even though it was just being passed down as a legend.

But with this, I’m convinced.

Listening to the village chief explanation, he finally made up his mind.

He always questioned where the excellent physical and learning ability of the children had come from.

They easily mastered a crossbow brought from modern Japan. They quickly absorbed the techniques he taught them, one after the other, such as cooperating in formations with the shields or taking covert actions in the forest.

These children were only about the age of a kindergarten child to an elementary school student. So, it always felt odd for him to compare them with modern Japanese children.

“I see. I’m planning on teaching the children how fight during winter.”

“How to... fight...”

The village chief furrowed his brows.

He was a little upset by the sudden proposal.

“It’s in order for them to protect the village. Don’t think it is for something bad.”

“If so, then there’s no other choice...”

Battle training was essential to protect the village from external threats.

As Gaton said earlier, there was a lot of chaos in this world.

Currently it felt like a dream to live peacefully in this mountain village, in this remote place living in isolation.

And since he already heard from the village chief about the secret of the people of Urd, Yamato decided to teach the children how to fight. Instead of keeping them sheltered under his personal protection, he would teach them ways to survive using their own power.()

“I have to wake up early tomorrow. If you excuse me, I’ll go to bed now.”

After the chat with the village chief was over, Yamato got up from his seat and decided to go to bed.

The festive atmosphere still continued. It was probably fine even if the celebrated person left a little earlier.

“Well then, have a good night, Yamato-dono.”

The village chief then saw him off with a polite tone. No trace of him being upset from before remained, it was his usual polite speech.

"Oh, that's right, there was one more thing I wanted to ask you."

"What is it? "

"The night when I first came to the village. Was it alright for you to have the children bring those 'welcome nuts' to me? "

".....That, I wonder what you are talking about."

To that parting question, the village chief choked as he tried to reply. Now Yamato was the one feeling a little upset.

"I dislike people who aren't honest. Please remember that."

".....I'll keep it in mind."

He didn't deny it. In other words, his guess had hit the mark.

[It is a custom of Urd Village, to give a present to the travelers who come. It is a sort of a proof of being welcomed!]

That was what the children who gave him those 'welcome nuts' were saying.

Perhaps the children visited him after being skillfully directed by the village chief. Regardless of the reason behind it, he was able to reconfirm one thing tonight.

"Next time I won't follow along."

"I suppose I can't use the 'I'm just an old man' excuse, Yamato-dono."

"Well then, let's work together for the village's future."

With a face as if nothing had happened. The village chief once again saw him off politely.

I can't let my guard down with this old man...

At first sight, the village chief was just a polite and harmless gentleman. However, he was quite the schemer.

Well, I don't hate that kind of people.

While remembering the image of that tough and reliable village chief, Yamato went to bed while smiling wryly

After the harsh winter, the spring filled with hope was sure to come.

Introduction of the people so far

【Yamato (山人)】

An ordinary young man who was transported from modern day Japan into another world.

Hobbies are mountain climbing and making tools. Not very good at socializing, and especially bad at dealing with children.

Due to his feelings of gratitude, he decided to do his best to help Urd Village which was at the verge of destruction. Although he is dexterous with his hands, he is sometimes a bit clumsy.

TLN: Like a 'NORMAL' adult should be, he shows no real love interest towards the children, (Liscia included). You sick people 〃

【Liscia】

Granddaughter of the village chief of Urd.

She is a beautiful girl as well as a great hunter. In place of her grandfather, she is delegated the role of acting village head, and inspired by Yamato, she helps him with the revival of the village. She will turn fourteen years old soon, becoming an adult.

TLN: She speaks in a formal tone with Yamato, but sometimes she also lets out kind of childish speech. Finishes some of her sentences with desu.

【Village Chief】

Village chief of Urd Village.

Polite and courteous elderly man, also Liscia's grandfather. In order to save the village from its crisis, he entrusts his authority to Liscia and Yamato. While he looks like a harmless person, he is actually quite a schemer.

【Gaton】

Old blacksmith of the Mountain Clan People who lives in the outskirts of Urd Village. A stubborn old man with a bad mouth. But his skills as a blacksmith are excellent, and he is able to instantly understand the rough drawings of Yamato and craft the items swiftly.

He is one of the only three people in the continent to possess the title of Grand Master Blacksmith.

TLN: He speaks very rudely to everyone, calls Yamato 'kozou'.

【Elderly people in the village】

Old people who were left behind in Urd Village.

Although not suitable for physical work since they lack strength, they have a lot of craftsmanship techniques such as food preserving, leatherworking, cloth weaving, porcelain production and building techniques.

While the children aren't working away from the village, they pass down their knowledge and techniques to them.

TLN: They are old, and at the start they give off this vibe like 'granpa, let me help you getting up the stairs or you'll break your back'-kind-of-old.

【Adults】

They were taken away by the evil Lord. That's the reason nobody over the age of fourteen remains in the village, except for the old people. It's unclear their current situation.

-----Children in the village-----

【Guts】

Oldest boy among the village children.

A hot-blooded kid with a simple character, but with the presence of a leader and generosity towards other children. Prefers hunting with a crossbow rather than doing other jobs.

TLN: Speaks with ore (a way men, or truant boys, refer to themselves)

【Painter Girl】

A quiet girl the same age as Guts.

Although not good at hard work and haughty like him, she has an excellent ability to draw pictures and write characters. She was appointed as a secretary of the village by Yamato when he noticed her talents. Loves reading books, and always looks forward to visit the village's book storage.

TLN: Sadly, she still has no name.

【Children】

Children whose parents were taken away by the Lord.

Many of the children are curious of many things due to their innocence and pureness. Still, they live a hard life without succumbing to fear. According to the Chief's story, their physical abilities are higher than that of ordinary children.

-----Others-----

【Evil Lord】

One day he suddenly marched towards Urd Village and took away all the adults. His residence is located in a big town quite a distance away from the village. It is a mystery the reason why he took away only the adults of Urd.

【??】

An armed group who after observing the feast in Urd Village, returned to their headquarters. It would be nice if nothing bad happens...

TLN: An edit for chapter 15, (since I already read up around half way through the novel) After they witness the festival of welcoming Yamato, they say they are returning to "xx". I translated it as castle, but it can also mean stronghold, or hideout. Still, I think the Lord has something to do with them since they call their boss 'Dana' and that could mean one of these:

1. master (of a house, shop, etc.)

2. husband (informal)

3. sir; boss; master; governor; word used to address a male patron, customer, or person of high status

4. patron of a mistress, geisha, bar or nightclub hostess; sugar daddy



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